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AN ACCOUNT OF DR. GALL'S SYSTEM OF CRANIOLOGY.*

THE Craniology of Dr. Gall was the favourite topic of the German literati, during the summer of 1805, at almost every university and capital of the northern provinces of Germany. Dr. Gall, who is a native of Suabia, began his literary pursuits at the university of Strasburg, where he took the degree of a Doctor in medicine. From thence he visited Vienna, where he soon became a favourite of the public as an eminent physician. Every moment he could spare from his professional avocation, he employed in natural philosophy, and particularly in the researches of the conformation and anatomy of the human brain. His discoveries could not fail to attract public notice and observation; and he opened public lectures on his craniology, having previously obtained the sculls of many hundred animals and of men; in the protuberances and depressions of which, his new hypothesis was always found to be true. The government, however, by the suggestions of some fanatical priests, took the alarm, and he was forbidden to continue his lectures. But this did not stop his inquiries; students in physic and men of research, came from every part to procure information, which he never refused, and his doctrine was soon spread all over Germany by the writings of some of his pupils. The Doctor himself prepared a work, illustrated with copper-plates, in which all his striking observations on comparative anato-

* The Editors have been favoured with this interesting communication from a Correspondent at Dresden, and have judged it worthy of a place in the Medical Journal. For the further information of the public they think it, however, proper to state, that a full account of Dr. Gall's System has appeared in Germany, from the pens of Drs. Bishoff and Hufeland, and that a Translation of that work has been undertaken, and will shortly appear in London.

my and the dissection of the brain were to be laid before the public. Subscriptions for it were opened, and completed in a short time. But previous to its publication, the Doctor resolved to make a circuit of all the northern universities and capitals of Germany, in order that the literati and professors might hear and scrutinize his Lectures, which he intended to deliver in every place wherein he should make any residence.

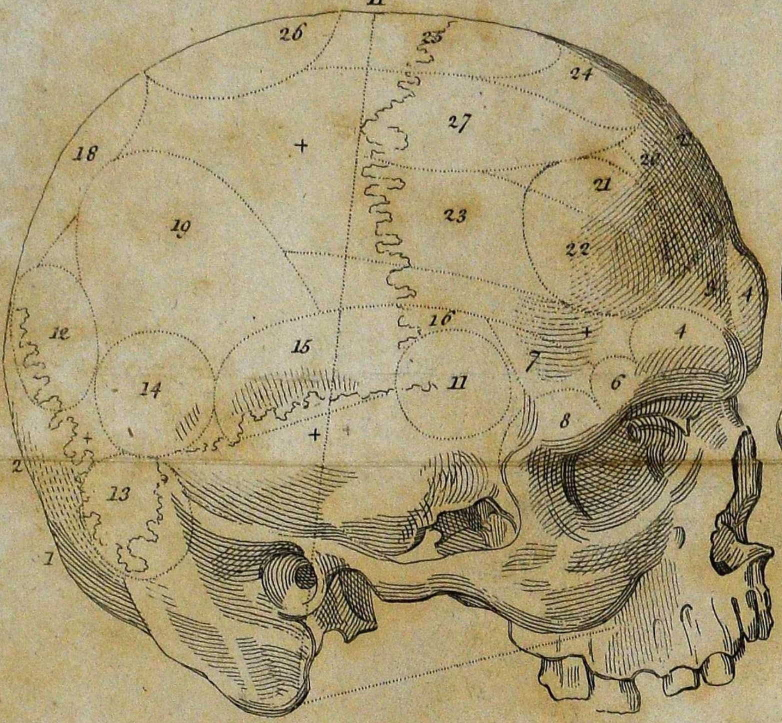
In the beginning of last spring the Doctor set out for Berlin, and lodged in the house of his intimate friend, Mr. Kotzebue; he here met with universal applause; the king, the queen, princes and princesses interested themselves so much in his discoveries, that he obtained an invitation to go thro' a course of lectures in the presence of the royal family, during which the queen inspected the dissection of a human brain, while the Doctor demonstrated the whole series of his astonishing discoveries. A rancorous attack was now commenced on his theory by Doctor Walter, first anatomist in Berlin, but it failed of the intended effect, every person being convinced that it was dictated by envy. On the opposite side, the justly renowned Dr. Hufeland, first physician to the king, almost all the faculty, as well as other proficients in that line of science, candidly professed their full assent, and several interesting tracts were published, in which ample justice was done to the theory.

Dr. Gall visited the houses of correction and prisons in Berlin and Spandau, and gave the most convincing proofs of his ability to discover, at first sight, such malefactors, thieves, and men of particular talents, as were amongst the convicts and prisoners; and a full and satisfactory account of those visits was published at Berlin, in a paper called the Plain Dealer. From Berlin he went to Dresden, where his lectures met with general approbation. On leaving that capital, he proceeded to Torgau, on the borders of the Elbe, whither the culprits of all Saxony are taken, in order to be put to work in a house of correction which is supported at the expence of the whole Electorate. In this journey, the Doctor was accompanied by several gentlemen of learning, particularly by Prof. Boettiger, now settled at Dresden, where he incontestibly proved by observations, that his Craniology was founded on the firmest basis. Mr. Boettiger has published these observations, an abstract of which is given in the following account; to which is subjoined a delineation of the organs, as they have been discovered by Dr. Gall's inquiries.

A faithful

Dr. Gall's Craniology. p. 202.

II



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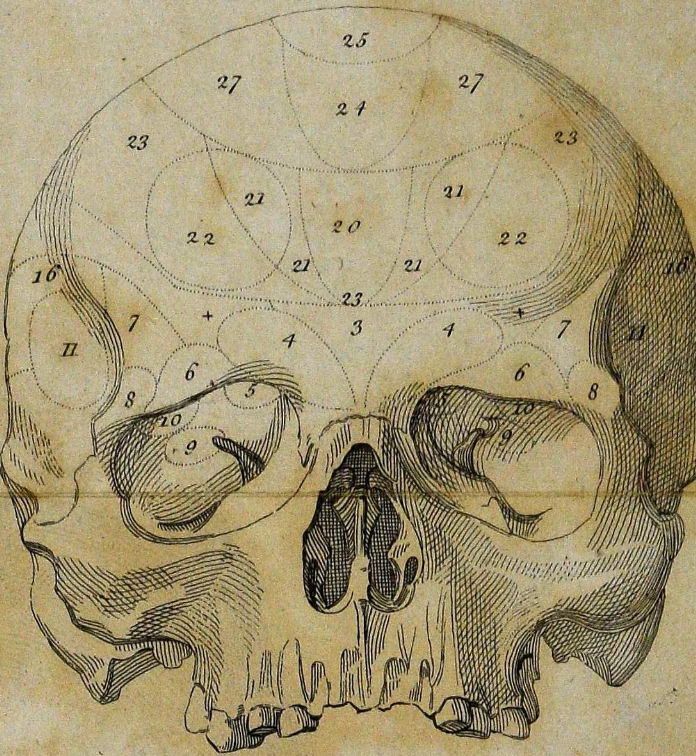

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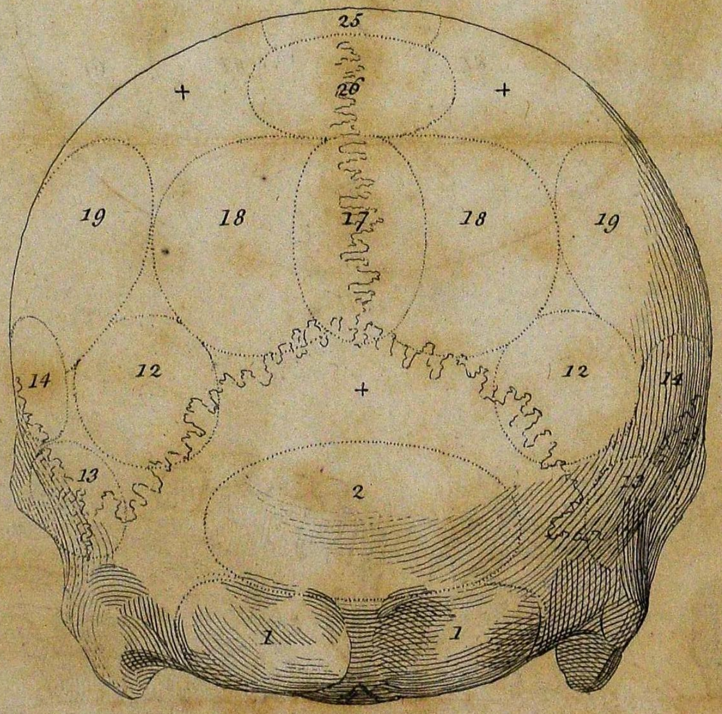

A faithful Account of Dr. Gall's visiting the House of Correction, and the Hospital of Torgau in Saxony, the 4th and 5th of July, 1805.

Dr. Gall, soon after his arrival at Dresden, expressed a strong desire of visiting the principal houses of correction, hospitals, and charitable institutions of the Electorate of Saxony. Proper orders were therefore given by the governors to the stewards of the Bridewells of Waldheim, Torgau, and Zwickau to that purpose; but Dr. G. being prevented by other engagements from undertaking a journey to every one of these three places, contented himself with going to Torgau, to examine the two institutions established there, and to corroborate, by living examples, his psychological and craniological observations, in presence of several attentive and judicious witnesses.

The last mentioned town contains two establishments; in one of them about four hundred prisoners are kept for punishment; in the other, almost as many lunatics and ideots for mere confinement; and both of them must certainly furnish the curious with various and copious matter for reflection. The sight of so many fellow-creatures, who are labouring under numberless physical and moral evils, must deeply wound any heart not divested of humanity; the idea, however, that every thing is done for their relief, affords a small degree of comfort.

Dr. Gall arrived, and several persons of distinction, friends as well as opponents of his doctrine, met, to be present at this curious and interesting investigation.

Mr. Wagner, one of the governors, had ordered the steward Seyfert, and the chaplain Reynel, both men of judgment and penetration, to make out a list of the most notorious felons and lunatics, describing at the same time, the reasons of their confinement, their characters, the state of their health, &c. according to which the examination of their sculls was to take place, and to which Dr. Gall's observations were instantly compared. He has neither seen this list before nor afterwards.. Some particularly distinguished male felons were brought before him, one after the other, which he surveyed with the greatest attention, and delivered carefully his judgment upon them.

In P. a lock-smith from Gœrlitz, who was confined as a false coiner, and who was known in the house as being of a mechanical turn, he immediately discovered the decided sense for mechanics, which this man, according to his own account, had evinced even from his childhood. It

 would

would have been natural to think, that according to the direction which this instinct took afterwards, and of which he made so bad a use, the sense for numbers might have been found likewise in him; but Dr. Gall did not see any thing of it; and at some trials, he proved to be but a poor accomptant. This circumstance confirmed his former observations on the organisation for mechanics, according to which, the mechanical skill may exist without the least notion of arithmetic and geometry.

In the prisoner A——, he observed less the instinct for thieving, than that of lust, with a violence, as an effect of his organ, for fighting. By comparing the list with his assertions, it was found, that he had been guilty of highway robberies, and a rape, and that he was subject to epileptic fits.

In S——, he observed besides the distinguished sense for thieving and that of carelessness, a remarkable skill for finding and remembering places. After enquiries, it was found, that he had often been employed as a messenger, and that he had discovered every place with the greatest ease.

Dr. G. was struck at the sight of T——, (a notorious fellow, who had formerly belonged to a gang of robbers) on account of his particular instinct for fighting. "This man," said he, "might have been a good soldier and freebooter." He discerned likewise in him the instinct for music, and it appeared that he had learned to play on the violin without any instruction.

Every person was desirous to know what Dr. G. would say about T——, who was known in the house as a thief full of cunning, and who having made several times his escape, wore an additional iron. It was surprising, that he saw in him far less the organ of cunning, than in many of the other prisoners. However it was proved, that examples and conversation with other thieves in the house, had suggested to him the plan for his escape, and that the stupidity, which he possesses, was the cause of his being retaken.

The Doctor examined with the utmost attention the prisoners which were confined for being incendiaries, as this crime is not to be met with in Austria, which is so very frequent in Saxony. He observed, that the inclination for it, which is said to be often almost irresistable, was the effect of several co-operating organs. In one of these incendiaries, who was about forty-nine years of age, he discovered the organs for cunning, for thieving, for finding, and remembering places easily, for recollecting words and

and the flat and unfortunate organisation, which he says is adapted for every thing that is bad.

In another he met with the organ for thieving and cunning in a superior degree, and with all the other symptoms which characterize avaricious and envious people; but in none of them did he distinguish the instinct for murder, or any other organ leading to violence.

Whilst the observations upon single individuals were continued, the steward had ranged all the rest of the prisoners of both sexes into two separate ranks, for which purpose the large yard adjoining to the house was very convenient. The Doctor, with penetrating looks, walked through this very numerous company of thieves and rogues, making proper remarks upon every thing which he found particularly striking. In the whole number, at least seven out of eight had been brought there, for having committed greater or smaller thefts; and that no innocent person was amongst them, could be easily proved by their organs for thieving, which was seen or felt at the first look or touch. Even the most obstinate sceptics were obliged to yield to the convincing proofs of this organ. Whoever cannot read these characters, will hardly be able to read any thing which the finger of nature has written. But here Dr. Gall protested, in the most solemn manner, against all misinterpretations, by repeating several times, the restriction to those who were present, that though the organ for thieving was eminent in most of the prisoners, it would be wrong and dangerous to judge, that every person provided with the same organ must be a thief. It was however remarkable, that in most of the whole company of rogues, the organ for reflection, which is placed on both sides of the upper part of the scull, was scarcely to be seen at all; as, on the contrary, the organ of lust was eminently disclosed in many of them. The want of the former, makes careless beggars and vagabonds; and the stronger existence of the latter, leads often to pilfering and cheating, particularly in servants.

Whenever Dr. G. met with some organisations either very fortunate or unfortunate, he did not fail to make judicious observations upon them, and ordered those, whose sculls and organs were similar, to stand next to each other, that they might be readier for inspection and comparison. This happened with four particularly distinguished heads, whose depressed and flat sculls seemed to shew something particularly sullen and beastly. Dr. G. took this opportunity to explain, how these people might have

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been assisted by an early education, and by a prudent choice of their profession. However, he, and Dr. Spurzheim, his fellow traveller, declared, that besides these four very unfavourably formed heads, there was in the whole number not another to be found, who had such a dejected and distorted face and scull, as he had generally met with at the prisons and bridewells of Berlin, and that an exception here was a rule there. It was surprising to him, to find so many prisoners at Torgau, who were confined *ob delicta carnalia,* as in the Austrian and Prussian dominions, crimes of this sort are not so severely punished. Some very favourably organized persons justified their exterior at a minute's investigation. "Why did you resist so obstinately to your superiors?" exclaimed Gall, at the first sight of a man, who was only punished for seditious speeches, and obstinacy; and really the upper and back part of his scull, where Dr. G. finds the organ of the desire for glory and steadiness, which degenerates so often into obstinacy, were uncommonly prominent. In another he met with the organs of wit and arts, and called that construction a very happy and *home* rising one, which was to be found in great poets. The man was really notorious for wit; and a person who had known him before his confinement, assured us, that he recollected his making verses *extempore.* Besides the organ of thieving and cunning, which shewed itself, in spite of every disguise, no other distinguished itself so much as that of representation, which, according to Gall's doctrine, is the share of actors, mimics, and witty fellows.

Thus ended this interesting inspection of sculls and organs, which is highly instructive to the observation of man, and to the philosophical physician. We lost much by the absence of the aged and experienced physician, Dr. Michaelis, who could have explained many things, which appeared to us enigmatical. This loss was more severely felt, at our visiting next the female ideots and lunatics. What a field for a psychological physician and anatomist! In the lower rooms of the right wing there were few to be found, in proportion, whose state required to be put in chains. It had already been resolved to introduce more generally the use of strait waistcoats. Only two of them were in violent paroxysms, but they shewed by their language the cause of their misery, that is to say, an extravagant lust. One of them suffered Dr. Gall to touch her scull, and this produced the usual effect of her disordered instinct. It was observed, that the most frequent

quent effect of frenzy was the volubility of the tongue, and an inclination for quarreling, which they shewed by breaking every thing in their reach, and by tearing to pieces their clothes, if they had got their hands at liberty. In two persons, who distinguished themselves particularly in that manner, the corner behind, and that below the *os bregmatis,* was found particularly prominent. In a female lunatic, who usually sits silent on the lower part of a window, and who fancies she looks down from Koenigstein* and to lie in the page's bed,† all those, who were made attentive to it, discovered the organ of finding and recollecting places conspicuously disclosed. As we returned across the yard, Dr. G. saw several ideots leaning against the wall, and basking there. Two sisters amongst them, of the name of Bolutchen, showed rough and unmannerly demonstrations of joy at the sight of some feathers, which an officer of cavalry, who was of our company, wore in his cap. Dr. G. took this opportunity, to make some very judicious observations concerning the confinement of these wretched creatures.

Towards the evening the Electoral hospital for the poor and orphans, situated in another part of the town, was inspected, where three hundred and forty-two poor persons and orphans are supported. Under the name of poor are understood ideots, melancholists, cripples, and persons affected with some incurable disease. The orphans are provided for after the fifteenth year of their age, the boys being apprenticed, and the girls put to service; only those children who are incapable of any other destination, are kept in the house amongst the poor. The hospital contained thirty incurable blind persons, fourteen others, born deaf and dumb, and many more, who, on account of their natural stupidity, made every attempt of instruction unsuccessful, but could nevertheless furnish materials to many physiological and craniological reflections. Dr. G. was struck at the sight of a man born blind, of the name of Grellman, a very assiduous instructor of the orphans, as he discovered in him a peculiar organ for mechanical

 arts,

* Koenigstein is a fortress situated upon a high rock, about twenty-four miles from Dresden, near the river Elbe, and the frontiers of Bohemia.

† The page's bed is a narrow projecting part of the steep rock, upon which the fortress of Koenigstein is built. It is related, that many years ago, a page of the King of Poland, in a drunken fit, went to sleep upon it. The King ordered him to be fastened with ropes, to prevent his falling down an immense precipice.

arts, and who spends his leisure hours in making bird-cages, and other artificial works, to which the measure of proportion is particularly required.—The existence of the very prominent organ for music in a person deaf and dumb was extremely surprising. No one had paid attention to it till then, and the question arose, how this organ could shew its effects in a deaf and dumb person? After inquiry, it was found, that he used to do every thing by time, and that he was not quite insensible to the sound of a drum.

In Gerish, a melancholist, the organs of theosophy, and that of representation, were strongly marked. He was known in the whole house as a visionist, and a fanatic. He related to us, that spirits often visited him, and told him stories of an extraordinay nature. Dr. G. found a great resemblance between him and a theosophical shoe-maker, whom he had seen in Dresden. In another blind man he met likewise with an elevation of the organ of theosophy, and, we were told, that he was fond of listening to the reading of theological works. In another, he observed that the organ of being good-natured was very visible at the upper part of the front of the scull, as he had found it in a servant of Baron Kalkhof at Vienna, whose scull was the first he had seen of the same construction, and who was represented to him as an extraordinary good-natured man. The former had been blind since the first fortnight of his birth, and yet the organ of finding and recollecting places manifested itself strongly in the corners of his eye-brows. To Dr. G's question, if he used to dream often? he answered, that he did it always; and being asked, of what he dreamed? he said, that he held mostly conversations of foreign countries in his dreams; and that at present the republic of the seven islands filled his mind more than any thing else. His principal delight is, to hear any person read the newspapers. In a young man half grown, Dr. G. discerned immediately, what he calls the organ of murder in a strange degree; and to his great surprise he was told, that both his parents had been found guilty of being incendiaries. He recommended a partieularly strict vigilance over him. One of the rooms contained four beings, which could hardly be called human, as their beastly stupidity, their grinning, and their staring eyes, shewed the greatest insensibility. One of them was particularly shocking, as his prominent eyes, and the whole form of his head, signified a *hydrocephalus*. He eats stones, and his own excrements,

crements, if he can do it without being noticed. Dr. G. said, that unfortunate cseatures of this sort had often retired to forests, and supported themselves by following their beastly instincts, and that therefore, many fabulous accounts of wild men could be explained. There was, in general, no want of matter for reflections to be made upon watery-heads, or dropsy in the brain, as this distemper was to be met with there in all its degrees. In a man, whose head was of an unnatural form, Dr. G. was doubtful, if he should explain the remarkable elevation above his ear as an organ of cunning, or as an effect of his having a watery-head. He said, that such a head might contain two pounds of water! In a patient, who chatters continually, and speaks in violent terms of his being cheated by his relations, Dr. G. found the organs at the upper part of the front bone, which seem to be necessary for the imagination of a poet, very eminent, mentioning at the same time, that most of the fanatic talkers are distinguished by these organs.

We next visited the rooms where disordered and lunatic females were confined. In a quarrelsome woman, Dr. G. observed, that the organ of fighting and that of vanity were particularly disclosed. In another, he desired us to notice the amorous and voluptuous gestures of the head, of which he had spoken in his lectures, and the behaviour of this person completely confirmed his assertion.

The following morning several persons, whom Dr. Gall had reserved for a more minute investigation, were brought before him in the committee room, one after the other, that he might practise his organoscopy, being less interrupted by a croud of spectators. One of the company undertook to keep a formal protocol, which was read to the Doctor after the bussiness was finished, either for his confirmation or rectification. The contents of it are as follows:

Elizabeth Wedekind appears, who is confined on a suspicion of murder till she can prove her innocence. The Chaplain observes, in his list of the prisoners, that she possesses the cunning of covering herself with the cloak of piety and devotion. She repeated with great eloquence the protestations of her innocence. The organ of murder was found on her in a very small degree; as, on the contrary, the organ of talking shewed itself more, and still more that of cunning. Neither the organ of ambition, nor of vanity, nor of highness was visible. She has been pregnant twelve times, and delivered seven times. The construction

construction of her scull is a favourable one, particularly on account of the organs placed on her forehead.

A woman, of the name of Weber, being in the greatest despair, as a reception was refused to her every where, threw her child, four years of age, into the water, and without being moved by its pitiful cries, she left it to be drowned. Dr. G. did not know any thing of her, but that she had murdered her child. He observed in her as follows:

At the hinder part of her head, which is very flat, the organ of love for her children is not disclosed; but the want of it is not so great as he has seen it in three female convicts, who were guilty of having murdered their children, and whom he had an opportunitv of examining very strictly at Vienna, Spandau, and Leipsig. Her organization is very different upon the whole; only the organ of retaining words is very visible. That of murder is not to be discovered in her. The want of the necessaries of life, however, probably brought her to the dreadful resolution of committing murder, as appears by the written proceedings of her trial. She was the only female convict that we saw this and the preceding day who shed tears, and that shewed an undisguised repentance. Her declaration, which was confirmed by the chaplain, that she never had any education, that she had only learnt to read while in the bridewell, and that she had got many sentences of the bible, and several psalms, by heart, deserve to be noticed, to justify Dr. Gall's opinion of her.

Three complete thieves appeared. One of them, of the name of Weber, was examined first. "Two of his organs are disclosed, both in an extraordinary manner, that of thieving with an uncommon cunning, and that of representation." Of the former, the account of his life furnished us with convincing proofs, and of the latter he gave us instantly an example, by representing an enraged person in the most natural manner. He has played several parts, which have done credit to his abilities as an actor. At the same time it was told of him, that he could deliver any sermon he had heard, and imitate exactly the voice, gesticulation, and declamation of the preacher.

Dr. Gall said of M**r, a journeyman bricklayer, as follows: "His organ for thieving is very visible; he has likewise the organ of representation; but his organ for highness or obstinacy, and that for music, are still more eminent." Upon enquiring into his conduct, we were assured, that he was very obstinate and rebellious, and that

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he had once made his escape. In respect to his instinct for music we were told, that he was the best psalm-singer in the whole congregation. Dr. G. observed, that the two latter convicts ought to be severely punished, as their organisation was so very favourable. In M. Dr. Gall found the decided organ of thieving, and a great carelessness; the organs of reflection not being formed at all." We were much surprised to be told, that this man, in whom Dr. G. had not discovered the organ of representation, possessed extraordinary abilities in imitating the voice of animals; but we were convinced, after enquiries, that his talent was not a natural one, but acquired by study. He related to us, that when he was a Prussian soldier, garrisoned at Berlin, he used to deceive the waiting-women in the foundling-hospital, by imitating the voice of exposed infants, and counterfeited sometimes the cry of a wild drake, when the officers were shooting wild ducks. His art seems to proceed from a sort of ventriloquy, as, during his practice, the muscles of his lips are scarcely moved.

Two other thieves were examined, and in both of them the organs of thieving and that of cunning were remarkable. Of one of them, he expressed himself thus: " To judge by the flatness of the fore part of the scull of this man, he is venal, and easily to be seduced, and his organ for music is eminent." The man spoke much of his being thrown into his misfortunes by seduction. In respect to music, he acknowledged that he joined with pleasure in psalm-singing. Two others were brought before him. Of one of them, he said: " The organ of good-nature is not visible in him; but his organ of lust is strong, and contributes to the disclosure of the organ of thieving." The man's confession, that he was very fond of the fair sex, confirmed partly Dr. G's observation. Of the other, he said: " His head is a pattern of inconstancy and confinement, and there appears not the least mark of the organ of courage." This cunning rogue has been able to gain a great authority amongst his fellow convicts. How is this to be reconciled with the want of constancy, which his organisation plainly indicates? Dr. G. answered: he had got his authority by cunning, not by courage. We were told, that when he was apprehended, he lost all countenance, and neither knew what to say, nor what to do.

Amongst many others, who were produced, the organ of representation was particularly disclosed in a shoemaker. The account he gave of himself, with his gesticulations, attracted the attention of the whole company. He imitated the

the mien of his neighbour in a striking manner; he represented an enraged person surprisingly well; and told us, that at the usual meetings of shoemakers, he had always been the merry-maker. A watchmaker gave an opportunity to Dr. G. to make some observations on the organ of poetry, which he discovered in him, and which he considers as the continuation of that of music, in an oblique direction in the corners of the forehead.

A man of the name of Kœlner was confined in Bridewell, on account of some threatening speeches to a person, who was afterwards found murdered. Dr. G. discovered in him the organ of obstinate highness, and that of courage, but by no means that of murder. However, according to his opinion, the organs which he had noticed in him, were sufficient to lead any one to commit murder. He observed in another person, that the fore-part and hind-part of the scull were highly arched. Dr. G. had formerly the opportunity of meeting with sculls of the same construction in Generals, who had been advanced from private soldiers to their high rank by merit and heroic actions. A taylor, from Dresden, a cunning thief, who had once effected his escape from bridewell, was the last who was introduced to Dr. G. for examination. He said of him, as follows: "The upper part of the front bone is flat, and consequently the organ of good-nature is disclosed but very little. The organ of cunning is eminent; but the organ of highness very seldom met with in thieves, is particularly striking." As we entered afterwards into conversation with him, he gave us to understand, with a great deal of presumption, that he did not intend by any means to follow his trade as a taylor, as he was able to perform by moon-light, what others did by day-light. The account of the thefts he committed proves, that he was prompted to them by vanity, as he always wished to appear greater and higher than he was, and of course the organ of highness was very active in him. Dr. G. before his departure, visited the male ideots and melancholists, in the left wing of the building. He met there with various matter for judicious observation. He proved, for instance, concerning watery-headed ideots, that in spite of the inactivity of almost all their organs, they shewed a great lust, because the instinct for the other sex in the small brains suffers the least by the water in the head. Some proud fools distinguished themselves, particularly one, for instance, who fancies himself Elector of Saxony, and another who pretends that the cities of Amsterdam and Hamburgh are to honour his drafts. In both of them the

elevation

elevation of the skull in the middle of the *sutura sagittalis* is very remarkable. Dr. G. gave likewise some hints how to treat fanatics, by using topical remedies and poultices if the distemper should not be inveterate.

Organs of Dr. Gall's System of Craniology.

1. The organ of lust, or of mutual instinct of both sexes. Fig. II. III.
2. The organ of a person's love for his children, or of an animal for his young ones. Fig. II. III.
3. The organ of being tractable in education, *memoria realis*. Fig. I. II.
4. The organ of finding, and remembering places. Fig. I. II.
5. The organ of recollecting persons (in the eye-hole.) Fig. I. II.
6. The organ of recollecting and comparing colours. Fig. I. II.
7. The organ of music. Fig. I. II.
8. The organ of arithmetic. Fig. I. II.
9. The organ of finding, and remembering words (in the eye-hole). Fig. I
10. The organ of language (in the eye-hole.) Fig. I.
11. The organ of mechanical arts. Fig. I. II.
12. The organ of friendship and attachment. Fig. II. III.
13. The organ of fighting. Fig. II. III.
14. The organ of murder. Fig. II. III.
15. The organ of cunning. Fig. II. III.
16. The organ of thieving. Fig. I. II.
17. The organ of highness. Fig. III.
18. The organ of thirst for glory, and that of vanity. Fig. III.
19. The organ of reflection. Fig. II. III.
20. The organ of comparing judgment. Fig. I. II.
21. The organ of philosophical judgment (includes No. 20.) Fig. I. II.
22. The organs of wit. Fig. I. II.
23. The organ of the power of induction (includes the organs No. 20, 21, and 22.) Fig. I. II.
24. The organ of being good-natured. Fig. I. II.
25. The organ of theosophy. Fig. I. II. III.
26. The organ of constancy. Fig. II. III.
27. The organ of representation (includes No. 24.) Fig. I. II.

** Are places not marked.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

Gentlemen,

YOU were kind enough, a few months ago, to announce my intended Publication, "*On the increasing prevalence, prevention and treatment of those diseases, commonly called nervous bilious indigestion, &c.* It however happened, as I proceeded in my inquiry, that the importance of the subject very much rose in my opinion, and which has retarded the work from being put to the press Another cause of delay has been, the sending of queries to several physicians, who had long practiced in the East and West Indies. Answers to these being mostly received, the book will now be forth-coming in due time.

Although

Although much has of late been written on these complaints, I do not find myself anticipated in the inquiry; or the ground that I have taken in the investigation peculiarly occupied. Dr. Cheyne's work, called the "*English Malady*," though, in many respects, a book of learning and genius, is obsolete in both doctrine and practice. The more scientific labors of Whytt, intitled "*Observations, &c.*" must always be referred to with advantage by the practical physician: I have therefore encroached but little on his method; and have chiefly directed myself to an analysis of the manners and customs of modern society, as they influence health, and give a peculiar character to some diseased movements in both body and mind. Few medical philosophers, who appreciate the pleasure of existence by the full enjoyment of the rational faculty with corporealaction, will contend that this class of diseases is unworthy of serious contemplation. In the present day, they form by far the largest proportion of the whole which claim professional aid. Since May 1802, of three hundred and eighty-four poor persons in this town and neighbourhood, who have applied to me for advice, three hundred have complained in some shade or gradation of these ailments. So large a number, affords to a reflecting mind, a melancholy picture of the condition of society. Many of them having occasional retoritial symptoms, had been most wantonly treated by *calomel;* and the dyspeptic symptoms much aggravated thereby. When these disorders arrive at the extent they have done at this time, they indicate a degree of dotage and decline in the intellectual and bodily powers of the human race. They are the offspring of an age, wallowing in wealth, indolence, and luxury. And as we view them with a philosophical eye, we perceive something like a physical necessity for the regeneration of mankind. But I must stop here, and give you a kind of syllabus of my work:

INTRODUCTION.

CHAP. I. The health of the savage state, compared with modern times.

CHAP. II. The medical description of the inhabitants of a city or town; or, analysis of modern society, viz.

1. Literary men.
2. Men of business.
3. The idle and dissipated.
4. The artificer and manufacturer.
5. Those employed in drudgery.
6. Persons returned from the East and West Indies.

7. The

7. The female sex; consisting of the higher, midling, and lower orders of women.

CHAP. III. The remote causes of nervous diseases, &c. viz. in, 1. Air;
2. Exercise;
3. Food;
4. Clothing;
5. Passions of the mind;
6. Intense study;
7. Lactation;
8. Sexual intercourse;
9. Climate;
10. Medicine.

CHAP. IV. Influence of these diseases, on the character of nations and domestic happiness.

a. Rise and decay of a commercial town, an epitome of a state.
b. Diseases attending wealth.
c. Barbarian and commercial Britain compared.
d. The dread of French invasion, compared with that of Julius Cæsar.
e. The Mortello Tower, and inundation of Essex, contrasted with the walls of Adrian and Severus.
f. Other nervous symptoms of a nation; hoarding up the gold coin, &c
g. Board of agriculture, a step to regenerating society. Another Addison wanted to regenerate morals.
h. Bilious temperament of Buonoparte.
i. Character of nervous persons, effects on private life.
k. The greatest vices and virtues found in the nervous temperament, &c. &c.

CHAP. V. History and progress of these diseases.
Predisposition or nervous temperament.
———— hereditary.
———— acquired.
———— gouty.
Symptoms of nervous and bilious affection, &c.

CHAP. VI. General doctrine of these diseases.

CHAP. VII. Preservation and treatment.

Should this plan suggest any thing to your numerous readers, I shall be much obliged by their communications. I observe with pleasure a strong coincidence of opinion on this

this subject, between your lively correspondent Dr. Reid and myself.

In consequence of *peculiar occurrences,* in this vicinity, I beg leave to withdraw my promise of sending to your Journal, the remainder of the case, *gastrodynia,* in your 68th No. The reflections upon it being allied to my present labors, will have a place in this Volume. You will recollect, I was charged with *presumption* in offering sentiments on a disease, opposite to those of Dr. Clark and Mr. Ingham. The mode of attack against me has, however, been varied; I must therefore alter my means of defence. Had I returned to the neighbourhood, where I received the first rudiments of my medical studies, to insult it by a fortune acquired by gross peculation in the service of my country; or to dazzle the world by a splendid equipage, purchased by the rapine of plundered provinces; I might have been an object for censure and malignity: but at a moment when I stood between the *sick bed* of an amiable woman and the *grave,* in opposing an instance of the greatest violation of medical practice that is to be found in the records of Physic, it is strange indeed.—Every independent mind will view the detail of these circumstances with disgust; for the same attempts which have been made to take the *bread from my mouth,* may be employed against every professional man, who weilds the duties of science and candor, against ignorance. *Ruat cælum fiat Justitia.*

I observe your learned correspondent, Dr. Thomas, in your last number, takes notice of Mr. Fogo's remarks on the case of *gastrodynia.* I did not reply to Mr. F. particularly, because I thought he drew conclusions that were not to be justified from the premises. But if the attending physician and apothecary, could call the spasmodic affections of a nervous temperament, a *pleurisy,* Mr. Fogo might very well call them *hepatitis.*

I am happy to inform you, that contrary to all expectation, my case of "*Mollities ossium,*" in your 75th No. is completely recovered. The young gentleman, after some interval, returned to the use of his medicine with increased advantage, till all unpleasant symptoms disappeared. Every palsied weakness is now restored to strength; and not even any deformity of the cervical vertebra, that was partially displaced, is to be observed.

I am, &c.

T. TROTTER, M. D.

Newcastle, Feb. 5, 1806.

Case of Ulcerated Leg, and Cases of Second Attack of Small-Pox; *by* Mr. C. Simpson, *of Skipton.*

ABOUT eighteen months ago, I was requested to visit Mrs. P. of a very thin spare habit, who for upwards of thirty years had been much troubled with an inveterate ulcer, situated upon the external part of the right leg. The symptoms I found her labouring under, were as follow. A large, dark coloured ulcer, extending from the external ankle, nearly up to the calf of the leg, and almost round the tibial bone, the bottom of a sloughy appearance, discharging a large quantity of thin, acrid fluid, and offensive smell; the edges of the ulcer greatly thickened, and extremely irritable; the whole of the leg above the wound and the foot, very much enlarged and indurated; pulse 96, and small; constant thirst; restless nights, from severe pain of the leg; no appetite; great depression of spirits, and general debility. The plan she had always been advised to pursue, was a reducing one; strictly to avoid wine, malt liquor, animal food, &c. &c. and frequently to take brisk cathartics; being always taught to believe, if ever the ulcer was completely healed, the consequence would be fatal; under that idea, poultices and mild ointments formed the external treatment.

Finding her general health considerably impaired, the ulcer daily enlarging, with the aggravation of every other unpleasant symptom, she resolved to consult some other practitioner. From a full consideration of the case, I had no hesitation in reversing the treatment. I requested her to take the following powder three times a day, in a generous glass of red wine: ℞. Pulv. cinchon. flav. ℈j. pulv. aromaticæ, gr. v. M. ft. pulv.; also, one of the pills every night at bed time: ℞. Hydr. muriat. mitis, opii. pur. a. ℈j. ext. gentianæ. ʒj. M. ft. mass. in pil. No. xx. divid. together with a generous diet, the use of animal food, porter, &c. &c. the ulcer to be covered with a fresh carrot poultice, and renewed two or three times a day; the indurated parts above and below the wound, to be well rubbed twice a day, with the vol. camphorated liniment. As she resided eight miles from my place of abode, I did not see her again for six days, when I found the symptoms more favorable; her appetite improving; better nights; leg more easy; bark agreeing well; discharge from the ulcer less in quantity, and not offensive; pulse 84, of better strength; bowels regular; no effect upon the mouth from the mer-

 cury,

cury. The bark to be continued, and increased to gr. xxv also the pill at bed-time. The carrot poultice was ordered to be omitted, and the wound dressed with lint soaked in the following balsam: ℞. Ung. res. flav. ℥iß. bals. canad. ʒß. M. twice a day, with a pledget of mild cerate over it; afterwards a flannel roller regularly applied, from the toes to the knee.

Six days afterwards I saw her again, and found her continuing convalescent. The bottom of the wound free from sloughs; healthy granulations shooting from the sides of the wound. The discharge of a good consistence; general strength recovering. The indurated parts softer, and the bulk of the limb considerably reduced. Her mouth affected from the mercury. Her bowels being rather costive, a mild laxative medicine was ordered; after its operation, the bark and pills to be continued, omitting the calomel; strict attention to be paid to the proper application of the roller. By pursuing this mode of treatment ten days longer, the granulations had so far increased, as to be nearly level with the surface. The balsamic ointment was then discontinued, and long strips of fine linen spread with the cerat. lap. calam. (of a firm consistence) was applied round the leg, tight enough to contract the edges of the wound moderately; compresses of lint were laid over them, and the roller as before. With this treatment, cicatrization commenced, and the wound was entirely healed in three weeks. She has ever since enjoyed a better state of health than she had for upwards of thirty years.

Had my patient continued the plan I found her pursuing, much longer, I am confident the discharge from the wound would soon have exhausted her.

I have frequently found in old ulcerated legs, a free stimulus given to the absorbent-system attended with the very best effects. In constitutions that have been injured by the too free use of spirits, I have often found the application of the common adhesive straps excite so much irritation, as to oblige me to discontinue them; but by making use of the cerat. lap. calam. spread upon strips of fine linen, and an opiate twice a day for the space of ten days, I have then been able to use them as in other cases.

I beg leave to acquaint Mr. Ring, through the medium of your Journal, with the following facts, relative to the second attack of small-pox, in particular idiosyncracies.

A few

A few days ago, I called upon a Mrs. Wilkinson of this place, who, I was informed had a son, that had had the small-pox after inoculation. She told me, when he was a few months old, he was inoculated for the small-pox by a Mr. Hall (formerly a respectable practitioner in this place, since dead) that he had the complaint in a very severe manner, with a great number of very fine pustules, and a great degree of fever for several days. That Mr H. expressed his entire satisfaction, with respect to his security from a future attack. Seven years afterwards, the small-pox raging here, he caught the infection from some neighbouring children, sickened, had a very full crop of pustules, which to this date bear proof of the severity of the attack, and from which he recovered with great difficulty.

She further told me, she had a brother who had the *natural small-pox twice*. As he resides in this place, I immediately waited upon him; he confirmed what his sister had told me, by saying he perfectly remembered both attacks, being twelve years old when he had the first, and fourteen the second; the first was a very severe one, the second though not quite so severe, yet by no means a mild disease. Several children were inoculated from the pustules in both attacks.

On the Radical Diversity of the Vaccine and Variolous Diseases; *by* James John Namlat, *of Bromley, Kent.*

When Dr. Kinglake's propensity to assimilate the most opposite diseases is considered; when we recollect he maintains the identity of gout, white swelling, lumbago, sciatica, rheumatism, and sprain; (vide his Dissertation) when, not contented with these large strides into the regions of medical novelty, he has advanced a step further, and declared his assent to that wonderful proposition, which makes apoplexy to commence in a painful swelling and inflammation of the great toe, (vide his Observations on Mr. O'Neal's case,) we must cease to admire, that he should make so great a discovery as that which he announces in the last number of your Journal, *the radical identity* of the vaccine and variolous diseases. He is, however, rather unfortunate in the means by which he would persuade us of the radical *identity*; indeed, if

we give to experiments and arguments their due weight, he could not have adduced stronger reasons to prove their radical *diversity*. No objection can be offered to the experiments, which he made to ascertain his proposition; they were conducted with great fairness, and sufficiently evince the impossibility of giving the variolous disease to the cow. The vaccine then, to which the cow is subject, is radically different from the variolous, which has never been observed in that animal, and which cannot be communicated to it. But it is supposed that the vaccine-pock is nothing more than a *mitigated form* of the variolous, in consequence of the blander fluids, or more moderate activity of the vaccine vessels, which produce it. This supposition is immediately refuted by transferring the disease to the human subject; for in that case the mitigated character of the vaccine should disappear, and the variolous be assumed, in consequence of the more acrimonious fluids or stronger activity of the human vessels, which are now actuated by that virus. But this is contrary to daily and hourly experience, which demonstrates that the vaccine disease, after reiterated inoculations into the human animal, still preserves its mild form, and peculiar characteristics, the reverse of what the variolous exhibits in so many respects, that no body but the identifier of gout and apoplexy, could possibly regard them as *kindred*, much less as the *same* diseases.

That the vaccine is a security against the variolous, no more proves their identity, than its being a security against the distemper in dogs, which has been asserted, identifies it with the latter malady.

It cannot be necessary to occupy your pages with a description of the numerous particulars in the two diseases, which oppose themselves to Dr. Kinglake's conclusion; such as the different size of the respective pustules arising from the *vaccine* virus and the *variolous*; the uninfectious nature of the former, the contagiousness of the latter; the single pock of the one, the dreadful plurality of the other; the perfect safety of the first at all ages and in every variety of constitution, and the too often experienced fatality of the second, under apparently the most favourable circumstances; but they are such as, I think, cannot fail to convince every one, who does not give way to the reveries of visionary physiology, of the *radical diversity* of these rival maladies.

January 16, 1806.

To

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

Gentlemen,

THE following Case appearing to me as a rare occurrence, induces me to offer it for your perusal.

Judith Commons, aged 23 years, of delicate form and scrofulous appearance. About two months subsequent to the birth of her first child, which was attended with no untoward circumstance, perceived a tumor in each groin, exciting considerable pain, which was alleviated, by their opening spontaneously, and discharging a quantity of matter, at first purulent, but gradually becoming ichorous; the edges of the ulcers assuming a bluish hue. She now became apprehensive that her illness was syphilitic, and in this, was supported by a concurring medical opinion. Her husband, convinced of his never having had any species of the disease, seeing the child perfectly healthy, and relying on her chastity, requested my advice. On my first visit, which was made the sixth week of her indisposition, I found the abdomen much enlarged, but without any evident fluctuation; legs œdematous; urine scanty and high coloured; appetite much impaired; ulcers very superficial and stationary. Doubtful as to the nature of her disease, and timid in giving an opinion, different from that of a man much longer in the profession, I declined offering my sentiments, but proposed the administration of such medicines as might tend to alleviate her present symptoms. Mercurial preparations presented themselves as most deserving a trial; they were had recourse to, in form of friction; pills composed of calomel, squill and digitalis were directed, and the ulcers to be dressed with common cerate. After persevering in this treatment for five weeks, the dropsical symptoms were entirely removed, and the sores nearly healed; her appetite returned, and she seemed in a grea' measure restored to her wonted strength. Confined circumstances, however, deprived her of that nutritious diet, and suitable exercise, so necessary to restore tone and energy to a system exhausted by tedious illness.

A few weeks only elapsed, when most of the symptoms, already enumerated, recurred with increased violence. The abdomen became again distended, the umbilicus prominent and much inflamed; and through the integuments the mesenteric glands could be distinctly felt, much enlarged, and seemingly indurated. She was now, by her

 own

own desire, removed into the country, and bought a supply of the medicines above advised, (with the addition of extractum cicutæ to the pills) cloths wet in a saturnine solution were applied to the umbilicus with the intention of removing the inflammation.

From this period, August 10, until the 6th of November, I had no opportunity of seeing her; when it appeared in vain to attempt resisting her dissolution. Conjoined with those symptoms above mentioned, there was an opening nearly two inches in circumference, and about three in a direct line above the umbilicus, which seemingly communicated with the colon; through this, fæces constantly oozed, though sometimes passed per anum. Under those circumstances she had existed five weeks, and frequently expressed a desire for food. She had constant evening exacerbations; pulse scarcely perceptible; countenance expressive of extreme agony; urine small in quantity, but not passed involuntarily; her mental faculties remained in a great degree unimpaired, until the last moments of her existence. From the obstinacy of her friends, I could not be permitted to inspect the body after death.

I am, &c.

Trim, County Meath,
Jan. 19, 1806.

THOMAS FITZPATRICK, M. D.

P. S. I should have observed, that the sores in the groin were compleatly cicatrized.

On the Tussis Convulsiva, and a more efficacious Treatment of this Disease; by Dr. Jacobi.

THE Tussis Convulsiva has often been reckoned among the most obstinate diseases, baffling all medical skill, and only giving way to time, or a favourable change in the constitution. How far this objection may be justly founded, we shall not discuss, but gratefully acknowledge every endeavour to establish a more effectual cure of this tiresome complaint. According to the doctrines of the ancient school, the tussis convulsiva was treated partly as a sthenic, and partly as an asthenic disease. It was almost universally believed to be impossible to cure the tussis without emetics, which, of course, were often repeated. The consequence was, that in some instances after the emetic

emetic had operated, the cough became milder, or ceased for a time, but soon after it returned with greater violence. After this medicine, stimulants or antispasmodics, often very untimely, were administered.

Dr. J. questions whether the tussis convulsiva originates from a specific contagion? But even supposing this to be granted, why may not diseases spreading through contagion, be shortened, in the most efficacious manner? Why is medicine to give way to them? He is of opinion that this disease is no more than any other morbus convulsivus, deriving only its peculiar form from the organs affected. In general, the tussis convulsiva is of the asthenic kind, and very seldom of a sthenic diathesis; which being obvious, must be treated accordingly. The asthenic cough affects mostly the stomach, the diaphragm and the lungs, with returning convulsive paroxysms of these organs; in consequence of which more phlegm is secreted, and generally thrown out by vomiting, at the end of every violent paroxysm. As the illness proceeds, the secretion of phlegm and the vomiting increase. Towards evening a fever associates; and delicate children often have a bleeding from the nose or the fauces.

The Doctor begins the cure with bitter roborant medicines, combined with the most powerful stimulants; musk, camphor, tincture of cinnamon, æther of vitriol, &c

To give a more distinct idea of his practice, we shall transcribe two of his cases.

Case I.—A girl, eight years old, of a weak constitution, pale faced, the abdomen much distended, was attacked with a very severe tussis convulsiva, often threatening suffocation. She became sick as soon as she eat any thing, and bled frequently from the nose and fauces. A nourishing, light, and suitable diet was ordered, and the following medicine:

℞. Extr. lign. quass. drachm. ij. solv. in aq. menthæ piper. unc. v. aquæ cinam. s. unc. j. syr. comun. unc. jß. liquor anodyn. Hofm. drachm ij. m. s. A table spoon full to be taken five or six times; and at the same time, ℞. Moschi opt. gr. vj. sacchar. alb. drachm. ij. divid. in vj. partes æquales; to be taken with the former medicine.

She continued the medicine, and the quantity of musk was increased the next day to three grains in every powder. Within five days the violence of the cough was much abated, the paroxysms returned less frequent, and the bleedings and vomitings almost ceased. From economical views, after the fifth day the camphor was substituted

 tuted

tuted, and from this time she took mosch. gr. xvj. camph. gr. xiij. in four portions. At the expiration of ten days the tussis convulsiva was transformed into a common catarrhal cough, with slight expectoration. She now took ℞. Camphor. pulv. gr. xxij. sacchar. alb. gr. v. divid. in iv. partes æquales, the other medicines being put aside, and in the third week the cough entirely left her.

Case II.—A boy, four years and a half old, very thin and poorly, suffered by the tussis convulsiva for several weeks in a high degree. Without any previous emetic, Dr. J. prescribed, ℞. Extract. cort. Peruv. dr. ij. sacchar. unc. j. ol. menth. pip. dist. gtt. viij. aquæ deft. unc. jß. tinct. cinam. unc. j. æther. vitriol. ℈j. of which he was to take a spoonful every two hours, and every three hours the following powder: ℞. Mosch. gr. iv. sacchar. ℈iv. M. div. in iv. partes æquales. The quantity of musk was augmented every day to two grains and a half, and the medicine continued. The result was such, that after the expiration of the tenth day the disease was almost entirely exterminated; the musk was now omitted, but the first medicine, with a little alteration, for some time continued.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

Gentlemen,

THAT time must surely be mispent, which is employed in criticism for the purpose of gratifying a spirit of malevolence, which too frequently rankles in the breast of those, whose education and situation in civil society, should have taught them better motives; but liberal conduct and charitable sentiments are qualifications which are rarely met with in many medical disquisitions. I have to lament, in common with the generality of your readers, that many men are more prone to cavil at, and disparage the endeavours of their neighbours to promote medical knowledge, than to lend a helping hand themselves; such beings may properly be denominated, *les ronces et les epines de la société,* which so often spring up, and choke the growth of useful plants. But it must be remembered that it is much easier for a man to criticize the writings of others, than it is for him to write himself; because he has the

the advantage of ideas, not his own, which he can twist and pervert, agreeably to the bent of his natural disposition. I shall be silent on the first part of Mr. Thomas's critique on my paper in the November Journal, as it relates to the Editors, and censures them for want of discrimination in their selection of papers. Impressed with a due sense of the propriety of the following sentence of an antient author, *Antefero iniquissimam pacem justissimo bello*, I could most willingly lay down my pen, did I not think it justifiable to defend myself against a violent and unjust attack, intended to sully my reputation; this circumstance will of itself be a sufficient apology for my intrusion on the patience of your readers, to give me an indulgent hearing, and for yourselves, in permitting me to "answer for myself," through the medium of your justly esteemed, though too frequently abused publication. The premier part of Mr. T's attack is chiefly confined to that portion of my paper, which related to the most expeditious method of making leeches bite; had he pointed out a better mode for the application of these useful animals, some degree of praise would have been due to him; but this would have been a task too difficult for him to perform. And should he have imagined that every medical tyro, had been already acquainted with the knowledge that I was inculcating, I believe he was grossly mistaken; for I do not think that there will be any vanity in the supposition, that I really conveyed a lesson which many of my medical brethren will consider extremely useful and beneficial, and which I really think he may have been ignorant of himself. I have fortunately been honoured with public testimonials of the utility of my communications from some of your correspondents, whose names and writings rank with those that do honor to the Medical and Physical Journal: Mr. Cooke of London, Mr. Dawson of Sunderland, and others, whose names I do not recollect, nor have I time at present to search for them, merit my esteem and warmest thanks. Other testimonials I have from private correspondence of physicians, not less grateful to my feelings.

A man of Mr. Thomas's manners should be reminded of, De quoque viro et cui dicas sæpe caveto. At the conclusion of his comments on the leeches, he observes, " Seriously, *Mr. Editors*, if all this had been treasured up, miser-like, in the rusty coffers of the Doctor's own soul, I do not think the improvement of your readers would have suffered any very considerable diminution."

Now

Now let me seriously advise Mr. T. when he turns critic again, not to jumble his jargon in such a manner with another person's words, as to leave no criterion whereby they may be distinguished from his own; for at treasured up, he places his inverted commas, but does not mark the end of his quotation.

I must, before quitting this subject, observe, that should any medical gentleman be acquainted with a better and more expeditious method of making leeches bite, than that which I have already pointed out, I shall be greatly obliged to him for the desirable information; yet I am well assured that many, if not Mr. Thomas, were entirely unacquainted with a method equal to that which I did myself the pleasure of recommending.

The gentleman now commences the most serious part of his critique, by prefacing it with "I will now take the liberty of proceeding to his case of Ischuria; the recital of it makes one shudder at his patient's narrow escape from imminent danger, but in which I cannot see that the Doctor has much reason to plume himself on his knowledge and dexterity."

Mr. C. the subject of my paper, was on a visit at the house of a friend, who was a married man, and motives of delicacy prevented him from complaining, until he was in extreme agony, therefore had I supposed that my statement of his case would have been so improperly handled, I should have been more circumspect in my diction, than to have said he had not passed any urine for *many hours.*

Having said that I was foiled in my attempt to draw off the urine, on the evening in which he complained, after the catheter passed with great ease apparently as far as the membranous part of the urethra, or to the prostate gland, he observes, "Now comes the mischief," and which he attributes to my using a steady, firm, and cautious force, for I felt the sensation of something giving way to the point of the instrument, impressing me with the idea that bands were formed across the passage from the exudation of coagulable lymph, or that the passage was nearly or totally obliterated by surrounding inflammation, and that my patient possessed more than ordinary fortitude, and begged me to persevere. I found the instrument advance suddenly for the space of half an inch, but on withdrawing the stillette, nothing but a few drops of blood followed. I now deemed it prudent to desist; on removing the catheter, about an ounce of urine followed, with hard straining.

The

The latter part of the sentence he has omitted in his quotation, for very obvious reasons, and which I will shortly prove; he has also been guilty of misquotation.

Relative to the force, which I have stated to be *steady, firm,* and *cautious,* he has the presumption to imagine that it was greater than common prudence would have dictated; nay, it must appear that it was not, if aught may be conjectured from my patient's feelings, who seemed conscious, from the manner in which I treated him, of my *great care* in not aggravating his present sufferings; for violent usage will (when a sensible part is inflamed) cause the most stout-hearted man to cry out. The sensation of something giving way to the point of the instrument, conveying an idea that bands were formed across the passage, is what every person has witnessed, who has been in the habit of using the catheter, and I suppose may be attributed to the reason assigned. The sudden advance of the instrument for the space of half an inch (as I supposed) is easily accounted for, from its having overcome the obstruction in this part of the urethra.

The harsh and uncharitable inference drawn from this, will be obvious by Mr. T's own words; for he says, "From the foregoing statement, does it not amount to more than a presumption that the catheter was pushed through the membranous part of the urethra, between the bladder and rectum, or into the prostate gland."

That the former was not the case is rendered very evident by the flow of urine which followed, on withdrawing the instrument; but he tells you of drops of blood only, and artfully leaves out the urine in this place. So therefore the most presumptive, nay, certain proof is, that the point of the instrument was in the natural passage; for had this not been the case, it were likely that there would have been no evacuation of urine, which followed the removal of the instrument. What I have already said will induce any impartial person to suppose, that the point of the catheter had reached beyond the membranous part of the urethra, and was really in the *natural* passage, for had it been lacerated, it were a thousand to one against my passing it into the vesica urinaria, the next day.

He now proceeds to the oval tub with warm water.— It is not my intention to waste much more of my time, which has lately been engaged by a medical work which I am still busy with; but I must remark, that Mr. T. sneers at a mode of introducing the catheter, which I have recommended, by taking advantage of a state of deliquium

um and relaxation whilst the patient is immersed in warm water, in an *oval tub,* which could not be done in a round one, as its shape would preclude the possibility of effecting it, at such a favourable moment. It grieves me to observe, that Mr. T. appears to be one of those passive unfeeling men, who would stand as it were with their hands tied behind their backs, when the catheter meets with resistance, rather than use those endeavours which are calculated to prevent that fatal catastrophe, a rupture or mortification of the bladder. I have seen eminent men foiled in their endeavours to draw the urine off, who never thought of the plan which I adopted with such great success. But Mr. Thomas, if one may judge from what he has written, knew this, and every kind of knowledge that has appeared in your instructive Journal; then, what treasures of still greater knowledge have we not to expect will burst forth upon the benighted medical world, when this *blazing meteor* shall again make his entrée into the medico chirurgical sign of your Journal. After the bleeding and depleting means have failed; what remains to be done, except the dreadful alternative of puncturing per anum, or plunging a trocar through the parietes of the abdomen above the symphisis pubis, or operating on the perinæum? The fatal consequences of which have been too frequently felt. —Then, are we not to open the natural passage by such attempts as prudence and the judgment of the medical attendant may suggest?

The father of my patient is a physician, and I hope this paper may catch his eye, and that he may be induced to offer his sentiments on the case.

Had that accident occurred which Mr. T. would wish the world to believe, is it probable, nay I will say *possible,* that my patient should have experienced so rapid a recovery, for on the third day he voided his urine pleno-flumine; therefore, if performing an expeditious and successful cure can be considered as bearing testimony to the propriety of the means adopted, I have nothing to fear from the insinuations of Mr. Thomas.

I am, &c.

RALPH CUMING, M. D.

H. M. S. Pegasus, Harwich, January 8, 1806.

SOME

Some interesting Enquiries, respecting the Manner in which Nourishment is carried over from the Mother to the Fœtus. *By* Dr. Lobstein, *Professor of Midwifery, of Strasburg.*

According to Dr. L. the liquor amnii is the principal source of nourishment to the fœtus. In all warm or cold blooded animals, even in those where the placenta or the umbilical cord is wanting, we find the fœtus swimming in this liquor. Towards the period of birth it decreases, and we observe that this liquor never undergoes any kind of corruption, though it assumes sometimes a more deeply saturated yellow colour. As it cannot be absorbed by the membranes surrounding the fœtus, for want of lymphatic vessels, it follows, that it must be taken up gradually by the child itself, and by the exhaling vessels of the skin be again reproduced. Moreover, as in all kind of animals, when the fœtus has no umbilical string, there can be no other way of nourishment, why may this not be the same in the human animal? According to the chemical analysis of Vauquelin and Buniva, this liquor contains albuminous particles, though not in a large quantity; yet always in greater proportion during the first months of pregnancy. The Doctor refutes the opinion that the liquor amnii is swallowed by the child; on the contrary, he asserts that it is taken up by the absorbents on the surface of the body only. Another source of nourishment is the *placenta*. By a minute enquiry it is found that the veins exist sooner than the arteries; consequently, they must perform other functions than carrying the blood back from the arteries. It is probable that they absorb at the same time, if not in every part, at least in some. The Doctor is therefore inclined to assert, that in the first period of pregnancy, the veins existing on the chorion, and the placenta without arteries, may answer the purposes of absorbents. In the first months of pregnancy, we observe between the uterus and the placenta a milky liquor, like chyle. It is therefore probable that the veins on the membrana caduca take up this liquor, till the umbilical arteries are formed, and the placenta is more perfect, when the anastomoses of the arteries and veins take place. The third way by which nourishment is carried to the fœtus is the *allantois*; probably the lymphatics of the urinary bladder of the fœtus carry the nourishing liquor of the allantois. The fourth source of nourishment is *the umbilical cord*. It increases in

in length as pregnancy goes on, and the albuminous matter contained in its cells may be carried to the child, and be absorbed by the lymphatics of the peritonæum. In quadrupeds, where the umbilical cord is very short, we find the whole surface of it surrounded with little vesiculæ, which renders this opinion still more probable.

Case of a Dolor Faciei, where the Dissection of the Nerve had no Effect. *By* Dr. Kopp, *of Bayreuth.*

A Disease whose nature and cure in general are very problematical, deserves the attention of every professional man, particularly when the efficacy of an operation, generally believed infallible, is called in question.

A lady, sixty years old, and mother of several healthy children, became affected with the dolor faciei in a most excruciating manner. The seat of the most violent pain was between the eye, nose and mouth, which increased periodically during several years. Besides these affections, she complained of a luminous shining in the eye, like lightening, when the pain commenced; which made it still more insupportable. She had never been affected with the gout or rheumatism; neither had she ever sustained a lesion of the head; and no vestige of a cancerous disposition was to be perceived. The lady had taken with great patience an immense number of medicines; but neither hemlock, nor antimony, belladonna, &c. produced the smallest relief. A great many empirical methods had been tried without success. The only hope rested on the operation, the dissection of the infraorbital nerve. About three quarters of an inch below the lower margin of the orbita, the incision was made obliquely, an inch long, and quite to the bone. The ends of the infraorbital nerve, by moving the instrument, were perfectly separated. In the same manner, about half an inch from the upper margin of the orbita, an incision was made through the *nervus frontalis*. Both wounds were kept in suppuration for some time. The operation being performed, a sedative and strengthening medicine was prescribed. Thirty-six hours after, part of the nose, and the upper lip at the left side, became cold and senseless; in the same manner the front towards the temples. The suppuration went on well. The third day after the

the operation the pain commenced again, but much diminished. The luminous sensation was not perceived, and she felt no pain in the teeth of the upper jaw-bone; but her hopes soon vanished, and five months after, she suffered as much as before, requesting again the assistance of Dr. Kopp.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

Gentlemen,

In the second Edition of Dr. Rowley's Pamphlet against the Cow-pock, page 90, is mentioned the case of Mr. Johnson's son, No. 16, South Moulton Street, who is therein stated to have had the small-pox, after having passed through the vaccine disease under my care. To most persons, the mere circumstance of the publication of this case in Dr. Rowley's Book, and the ungrammatical and perplexed language in which it is related, will be a sufficient proof that the statement is inaccurate. I have already alluded to this case in "*Observations on some late attempts to depreciate the value and efficacy of vaccine inoculation,*" lately published, and have there said enough to satisfy any person, at all conversant with the small-pox, that the eruption which appeared on Mr. Johnson's child, was void of every characteristic symptom of that disease, as *it had completely dried away before the expiration of three days.*

Dr. Rowley asserts, on the authority of Mr. Johnson, that when this child had been vaccinated, I offered to forfeit one hundred pounds if he should ever afterwards have the small-pox. Though I do not recollect making such a declaration, yet I belive it possible that this part of Dr. Rowley's story may be true; and therefore, that I may not be worse than my word, if he can prove to the satisfaction of twelve impartial and competent judges, that Mr. Johnson's child, whom I vaccinated, did really pass through the *genuine small-pox*, I hereby again promise to forfeit the above sum of one hundred pounds, not to Mr. Johnson, who would be above taking the money; but to the persons, styling themselves the Antivaccinarian Society, the funds of which, I understand, are at so low an ebb, that this money would be a very desirable acquisition to them.

Some

Some other cases in which I have been concerned, are much misrepresented in Dr. Rowley's pamphlet.

Cases 317, 318, 319, three children of Mr. Parnell, of No. 7, Shepherd's Market, May Fair, are stated to have had the small-pox after having been vaccinated either by Dr. Merriman or me. It is true, that these children were attempted to be vaccinated by me, but it was with dry matter, kept a day or two upon the lancets, the children not having been brought to be inoculated on the day appointed. At the time of inoculation, I expressed a fear that it would be unsuccessful; it was completely so: no more effect was produced, than if the cuticle had been gently abraded by a clean lancet. The friends of the children were made perfectly sensible, that they were not secured from the casual infection of the small-pox, and were enjoined to send them to be inoculated again, but neglected it. This is the simple truth of a story, thus artfully trumped up to deceive and mislead the public. O, shame! where is thy blush?

Another false report in Dr. Rowley's pamphlet is respecting an eruption on Mr. Turtle's child, No. 199, page 64. Dr. R. calls the disease "the cow-pock mange treated unsuccessfully as the itch." The child, he says, "is now two years old, Aug. 29, 1805, under my care." That the child had contracted the *common itch*, by contagion, fourteen months after vaccination, I can assert on the authority of a physician of more than fifty years experience. The treatment which she then underwent was not unsuccessful, as the child was cured by it. She has since been occasionally subject to the prurigo, as described by Dr. Willan, Order I. Class iii. sometimes to a very considerable degree; for which, many more probable causes may be assigned than the cow-pock, particularly the eating of strong cheese, and drinking porter, which articles of diet I lately saw her enjoying, with much apparent satisfaction. Lastly, the child could not be said to be under Dr. Rowley's care; the medicines he ordered, did the child no good, but put her to *most excruciating pain*; they were, therefore, soon discontinued; yet, when the colder weather set in, the prurigo, as is usual, spontaneously disappeared.

Having the pen in my hand, I cannot forbear congratulating the public, and in particular the friends of the Jennerian discovery, on the victory obtained by vaccination, in the very head quarters of the enemy. The Governors of the Marybone Infirmary have, I am informed, given

peremptory

peremptory orders, in utter contempt of Dr. Rowley's pamphlet, that every child belonging to that extensive charity shall be vaccinated. When it is recollected, how many years Dr. Rowley has been physician to that well conducted establishment, how long he has there reigned lord paramount, this must be considered a triumph of the cause of Truth and Vaccination, as important as it is decisive.

I am, &c.

Curzon Street, Feb. 6, 1806. S. MERRIMAN, Jun.

To THOMAS PAYTHERUS, Esq.

THE following Cases, on the subject of Inoculation, appearing to me rather singular, I have taken the liberty of laying them before you, for the following reason, that tho' they may contain nothing new to the medical world, yet, nevertheless, they offered to my mind a most satisfactory proof of the efficacy of the vaccine mode of inoculating.

The Case of Lydia Carter, now Barnet.

About nine years ago, Lydia Carter lived in the service of George Ricketts, Esq. of Candover, in this county. Having never had the small-pox, she was inoculated with vaccine matter, and had the disorder in the usually mild way. About two years subsequent, she married, and came to settle in the village where I live, her husband being a miller's labourer. At this period her brother, James Carter, lived in the adjacent village of Twyford, having a wife and five children. A benevolent lady of that neighbourhood had, about two years before, recommended him to have himself, wife, and five children, inoculated with the vaccine matter. He unfortunately having no care for himself, rejected it, but permitted his wife and children to be inoculated after the vaccine method. They had the disease in its usually mild form, and the father experienced no inconveniency. In two years subsequent to this, he himself sickened in the natural small-pox, and had it in a most violent degree. At this period Lydia Barnet went down to Twyford, and attended her brother night and day for a week, and was exposed to every possible degree of infection. A medical gentleman of the first abilities was called in; not having himself inoculated the wife and children of this family, but only understanding that they had

been inoculated, he could not answer for it that they had had the disease; he therefore proceeded to inoculate them with the natural matter. As for Lydia Barnet, as she had been a vaccine patient of his own when at Mr. Ricketts's, he refused to inoculate her; she was, however perfectly secure, and the wife and children of James Carter were equally so, as the inoculation of them from the natural matter had no effect whatever. After the lapse of two years more, and four from the inoculation of Lydia Barnet with the vaccine matter, the natural small-pox broke out at the mill where her husband's daily employment required his presence. There were five people of different ages down at the same time. Upon this, Lydia Barnet, still apprehensive she might be infected, submitted to be inoculated with natural matter; and the person who inoculated her (being no advocate for the vaccine mode) boasted with confidence that he would communicate the disease. In this, however, he was completely foiled, and was by this experiment convinced of the efficacy of a system, which, previous to this, he had affected to despise. Lydia Barnet is still my neighbour, and adds her testimony to the above case.

Case of Mrs. Clewer and her Son.

John, son of Mrs. Clewer, a neighbour of mine, a boy at this time of twelve years of age, was inoculated with his mother about eleven years ago, from matter taken from the small-pox in the natural way. The child being then at the breast, was inoculated three days before the mother. The mother had the disease in a favorable way; the child did not appear to sicken, but his arm rose very kindly, and every thing appeared to be well, and no doubt was entertained by the parents at least, but that they were both secure. Last summer two years, Sarah, a second child of Mrs. Clewer, was inoculated with the small-pox; she was then seven years of age; she had the disease very favourably, but what is remarkable, her brother, whom his mother had suckled under inoculation, and who had been inoculated himself along with her, took the infection from his sister in the natural way, and had the disease so bad that he was covered from head to foot. The parties are all now living in St. Cross.

1st. Quere, Had a case similar to this happened under the vaccine inoculation, would it not have injured the practice in a great degree in the vicinity where it happened?

2d Quere, The first disease in the child's arm being evidently a spurious one, is it not probable, that where infection

fection ever follows the vaccine inoculation, it must be owing to an *apparent* but not real communication of the disease in the first instance?

Deduction from both cases, considered in conjunction. It appears that the true vaccination is proof against every infection of the small-pox, whether natural or attempted to be communicated, and that it is not more liable to fail than the small-pox by inoculation either is or ever has been.

Case of William Cole and Sarah Fry.

Sarah Fry, born in the year 1739, lived as house-keeper with William Cole, aged then eighty-two, in this village. She was seized with the natural small-pox in the year 1803. On the discovery of this, medical assistance being called in, the gentleman that attended hesitated to vaccinate the old man, William Cole, fearing lest he might have taken the infection previously in the natural way; but nevertheless, in compliance with the old man's wishes, Sarah Fry was removed, and he was inoculated with vaccine matter; his arm rose well, and he is now a living witness of the utility of vaccination even at the latest period of life, being at this time 86 years of age. Sarah Fry is also recovered, and is still living, aged 67. Should the above cases be of any service I shall be extremely happy. They are written, as you may perceive, currente calamo, for truth needs no ornament.

St. Cross, near Winchester,
January 15, 1806.

I am, &c.
S. L. ARMSTRONG.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal

GENTLEMEN,

IT is with infinite pleasure, I acknowledge my obligations to Mr. G. P. Dawson, of Sunderland, for his valuable Communication respecting the use of the Sponge Pessary, mentioned in the 72d Number of your Journal, for February, 1805; by the use of which I have been enabled to give relief to two females, with procedentia uteri, who have been made comfortable to themselves for several months past, and who could not possibly endure the excruciating pain, occasioned either by the cork or wood pessary; I am in hopes other practioners, actuated by the same

laudable motives as Mr. D. will be induced to follow an example so truly beneficial to society.

I am, &c.

Manchester, Feb. 5, 1806. EDW. HARDMAN.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

ON January 17, 1806, I delivered Mrs. P. of a very fine boy. I remarked, however, with the greatest concern, in the site of the lowest lumbar vertebra, a large oblong aperture, whose greatest diameter was at least an inch and a half. The external integuments terminated suddenly at the edge of it; nothing indeed can be more entire than this large chasm. At somewhat more I thought than the depth of half an inch was seen, apparently, the spinal marrow in its envelope; but instead of an opake white, it was in no inconsiderable degree of a reddish colour; I say, apparently, because I did not minutely examine it, lest I should too much attract the attention of the poor mother, at a moment, when their solicitude with respect to the state of the child is always extreme; the babe in every other respect was perfect, and seemed to be strong and well. I sent to the nurse a piece of Bayntun's adhesive plaster to be applied over the aperture; on the following morning the space between the plaster and what I have said appeared to be the medulla spinalis, was entirely filled up, and the plaster a little protruding. In the mean time the child had been restless, but we did not think it ill; the next day, from the moisture underneath it, the plaster had slid off. I found the incipient tumor had now considerably increased, that a membranous expansion on the surface of it had cracked seemingly in several places, and that a little of an aqueous discharge had exuded. The child had taken the breast and been fed, and its evacuations had been natural; yet it was evidently on the decline, and I ascertained at this time that he had not the least power over the lower extremities, which were entirely pendulous; and the nurse assured me too, that he had never stretched out nor drawn them up.

At the end of a week the tumour had attained the size and pretty much the shape of a middle-sized turnip; having

ing remained nearly stationary for three or four days it began rapidly to collapse and sphacelate, and the child died on the fifteenth day.

The medical world will hardly, I believe, give me credit for detailing this case of spina bifida as a novelty, although its progress has been a little more marked perhaps than it often has been. The following occurrence will at once explain my motives.

Two years ago, I removed from a child a few days after its birth, a firm fleshy tumour, nearly the size of a pullet's egg, which appended by a peduncle an inch long from the middle and hinder part of the neck; the peduncle was somewhat larger than the largest goose-quill; I passed through it a needle with a double ligature, and tied it on each side; in passing the needle I observed with much surprize a single drop of water to escape; Mr. Little, who was with me, and who perfectly coincided with me in his opinion, with respect both to the propriety and mode of removing this præternatural excrescence, remarked it also with equal surprize.

The day after the application of the ligature the babe became restless, and a good deal disordered; the tumor rapidly sphacelated of course; the attending circumstances hourly grew worse, and having lain a few days under a train of symptoms which usually mark cerebral affections, the child died.

No surgeon, I have the great satisfaction fully to believe, would have shrunk a moment from removing this pendulous tumour in the way that I did; certainly there were no characters either in the appearance or feel of it, that could possibly suggest even the most remote suspicion that it was at all connected with the vertebræ. I may add too that the child was extremely fat; a circumstance, as fat is generally largely apportioned to this part, which would have rendered any connection with the spine much less discoverable had any suspicion of it occurred at the time. But from the circumstances which arose, I was afraid then, and am more afraid now, that the peduncle was in a small degree tubular, that it was connected with a small aperture in the cervical vertebra, that the drop of fluid which escaped was similar to that discharged in the preceding case, and that the fatal event happened in both instances from the same train of causes.

A similar case may again present itself, and similar means may without hesitation be again resorted to for its removal; I feel it therefore a professional duty to place

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this event on record; and I do not know where I can give it a more conspicuous situation than in your widely circulating Journal.

From the continued friction to which this excrescence would be necessarily exposed, and much more from the connection, if it existed, between it and the medulla spinalis, there is unquestionably the greatest reason to conclude, that it would have ulcerated at no distant period. It is hardly necessary to add, that whenever this happened the event would have been the same. Be that however as it might, I do not anticipate that any opprobrium will attach to me from the publication of this case; and truly, if there does, I shall not feel it. It will hardly be out of place to remark, that the back is the frequent seat of various tumours.

I was favoured a few days since with an opportunity of seeing Mr. Veitch, surgeon in the Royal Naval Hospital here, remove an immense fatty mass from the back of a seaman. It was seated on the middle of the back, and lay perfectly superficial under the integuments on the fascia of the muscles, to which it was but slightly connected by cellular membrane and several nutrient vessels, which tho' small, were much disposed to bleed. This mass was of more than twenty years growth; in its circumference more than two feet, and weighed 4 lb. 2 oz.

If I were at all conscious that my approbation would give Mr. Veitch pleasure, or in any shape serve him, I should say with great gratification, that no surgeon in the world I believe could have dissected out this tumour with more neatness or expedition.

As I continue to believe that early and repeated rupturing the vaccine vesicle renders vaccination in certain constitutions, what I have ventured to term *incomplete*, and is therefore among the most frequent causes of those failures that occur in the practice. As I have insisted at considerable length on this circumstance; have published several facts and observations of my own; and many others with which I have been favoured by very respectable practitioners, all tending strongly to confirm the truth of this conjecture; and as these have failed to engage that attention, which it appears to me the subject deserves, I request you will do me the favour to print the following extract from the Minutes of the original Vaccine-Pock Institution. The case

case it details is entirely in accord with the facts and observations I have adduced; coming from high authority, it will probably ensure more notice than many similar ones either from my neighbours or myself. Dr. Wood, in his valuable paper in the last Journal, seems to think that two vesicles are always necessary; surely then we may justly suspect, that one ruptured vesicle may be, now and then, in certain constitutions insufficient.

Tuesday, January 7, 1806, Dr. Nelson communicated that he had inoculated with vaccine matter the child of Mr. Josse, in Vigo Lane, Carnaby Market, about three years and a half ago. The child had only *one vesicle, from which matter was taken to inoculate two others*, of whom one went through the cow-pox in the usual way; the other had an irregular disease, no vesicle being produced, though the punctured part was surrounded by a large areola.

It appears that Mr. Josse's child had the small-pox in the month of November last, about a fortnight after having been exposed to the contagion of that disease. There is now perceptible *an irregular cicatrix* from vaccination.

I am, &c.

Plymouth Dock, Feb. 5, 1806. R. DUNNING.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

Gentlemen,

It is a matter of the greatest importance, where it is practicable, to ascertain (after the death of a patient who had been labouring under any disease of an obscure nature) the state of the different viscera, and more particularly such parts in which were seated, the pains, or other grievances that the patient complained of during the progress of affliction. By such anatomical investigations in search of what had been destructive to life, it is highly probable, new light may be thrown upon the treatment of many intricate maladies, which too often confound, and as it were, bid defiance to the abilities and skill of the most learned and eminent practitioners. I am sorry to say that the annexed individual case, wherein so much disease existed, that had there been a pretty accurate knowledge of the state of things, I very much doubt that it would have been in the power of art to have accom-

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plished a cure: and although the following history of this extraordinary case does not point out, or allude to any success of the remedies employed therein, but on the contrary, the case itself will appear to have been irremediable; yet the publishing of such cases may, very possibly, assist in pointing out some new and valuable documents for future practice, when diseases of a similar nature again occur; and most certainly the improvement of the profession must necessarily be deduced from such communications coming before the public, and from which, of course, new discoveries in the healing art are to be expected. I am, &c.

ROBERT EARNEST,

Feb. 10, 1806. House Surgeon to the Sheffield General Infirmary.

CASE.

D. D. a youth, nineteen years of age, with a weakly constitution, low in stature, and his complexion florid and delicate. In the year 1795, he was attacked with typhus fever, caught by contagion.

The fever continued for a considerable length of time, which emaciated the patient very materially, and left him in a state of extreme debility, which he never recovered. He was ailing several years, during which time a numerous train of anomalous symptoms came on, which rendered him exceedingly nervous and irritable; so much so, that the least noise imaginable would alarm and agitate him very distressingly for a short time, and which always brought on, perhaps, the worst palpitation of the heart that ever was either heard or felt; the slightest motion or exertion sometimes would also bring on this truly painful symptom; and his fear of molestation was so great, that his mind was scarcely ever at ease, unless the door of his apartment was bolted.

It would be a difficult task to detail a vast number of the more trifling symptoms that this patient used to complain of, but I will here endeavour to enumerate the more prominent ones, and such as most required the attention of the medical attendant; namely, the face was highly flushed with a deep red colour; the pulse, morning and evening, was generally at 82 or 83; but upon the least motion of the body it would become rapid, very irregular, and would sometimes intermit; the fauces and sides of the tongue were inflamed and excoriated, and the tonsils were nearly destroyed;

destroyed; the appetite was not much impaired, but the bowels were always costive, accompanied with constant heat and pain of the anus and rectum; there was often a very painful head-ach, and, to use the patient's own words, 'with a sense of coldness in the brain;' the respiration was laborious, short, and quick; the speech and voice were very much affected; and whenever he endeavoured to talk, he was obliged to pause a little between every two or three words; a short and troublesome cough, without expectoration; and, as it was before observed, extreme debility in motion. There was great watchfulness; and when he did sleep, he sometimes awoke in a very deplorable state, as if he was dying; and after he had recovered from such an attack, he would describe his feelings at the time in the following manner. "I felt great oppression about my heart, and had not the power to breathe, or to move in the least possible degree; my senses failed me for a few moments, and it is with the greatest difficulty that I catch my breath again, and that at these times I am fully persuaded that life for a short while is suspended."

He could not lie in a horizontal posture, consequently he was obliged to be placed in bed in a half sitting position, reclining a little backwards.

With these symptoms the patient suffered much, and lingered for upwards of five years; and in the end, when he had arrived at the age of 24, his complaints terminated in general anasarca and death.

The patient during his very long and painful illness, had been attended at different times by several different physicians and surgeons; but from the very obscure nature of his complaints, none of them were able to afford him any lasting relief; nor will their want of success appear at all surprising, when the reader is made acquainted with the morbid changes and appearances that had taken place in the structure of some of the viscera contained in the thorax and abdomen; of which the following account of the subsequent dissection will sufficiently testify.

1. The contents of the thorax were examined, and here the right lobe of the lungs adhered firmly to the pleura in several places, and this side of the chest was nearly filled with water: on the left side, the lung appeared to be compressed into a much smaller compass than natural, by the heart, which had become considerably enlarged; I may say, to nearly twice its natural dimensions, and the apex of it, as it were, was tilted up and pressed against the

the side. The pericardium adhered closely to the heart universally. On examining the blood vessels going immediately from the heart, there did not appear any thing like aneurism; but they appeared larger and more dilated than is generally seen in a healthy subject. The pulmonary artery in that part just before it sends off branches to the lungs, &c. shewed signs of approaching ossification, as also did the two bronchials.

2. In the abdomen, the liver was somewhat enlarged, and was darker in colour than is natural; but upon cutting into its substance there did not appear any apparent disease, neither were there any adhesions of it to the peritoneum, or any other part. The stomach and bowels were fully distended with air, and appeared to be in a state of inflammation, and the blood-vessels upon their surface were beautifully injected with blood of the brightest scarlet colour, as also were those of the omentum.

The coats of the rectum were much thickned, but more particularly so towards the extremity of it, where there was evident beginning schirrosity, and the passage at the anus was considerably contracted.*

All the other parts were natural.

On the Means of supplying the Poor more effectually with Medical Assistance in the Country Parts of Ireland.

It is now several years since the Legislature of this country, taking into consideration the distressed and help-

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* The bowels in this case being always very costive, the patient could never part with stools without the aid of domestic glysters, once and twice a day; as, sometimes, the enema that was injected in the morning did not come away during the day, it was therefore necessary to repeat another in the evening. The frequent introduction of the glyster-pipe, although a small one, never failed to produce a great deal of pain for two or three hours together; and the patient was so fearful of this operation, that so long as he was able himself to perform it, he never would suffer any one else to do it for him; accordingly he had an apparatus made for that purpose, after the manner of a French glyster syringe, which he could use in a sitting posture very conveniently.

From the almost constant pain and soreness he felt in the rectum and parts adjacent, he was always of opinion that these parts would be found in a diseased state; and it clearly appears from the above statement, that his ideas, in this particular, were verified.

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less state of the poor in the provinces, who from accident or disease were deprived at the same time of health and of the means of subsistence, voted several considerable funds for the erection and endowment of hospitals, to be provided in the most central and populous town of each county.—That these establishments should be supplied with sufficient medical assistance, it was enacted that a surgeon, duly qualified, should be appointed to each, by the governors of the county; and in appointing a surgeon instead of a physician, it was wisely considered that the medical education of the former would enable him to afford relief in most diseases to which the poor are subject; whereas the latter would be incompetent to perform surgical operations when necessary.

Each hospital is amply supplied with all manner of surgical instruments, and apparatus, and with whatever medicines the surgeon may require. The buildings are in general large and commodious; beside a spacious vestibule, a large saloon for a surgery or pharmacy, and suitable apartments for a nurse, porter, &c. there are accommodations for about fifty patients.

The regular funds for the support of these establishments are, as I am informed, about three hundred pounds a year; beside, the casual subscriptions from gentlemen of the county, charity balls, &c. &c. may possibly amount, upon a moderate computation, to about one hundred and fifty pounds more, with a very small share of exertion on the part of the governors or surgeon. Upon these funds twenty-five patients in acute diseases or severe injuries might be amply provided for, and the expences of house repairs, servants wages, medicines, &c. defrayed.

One half of the wards would still remain untenanted; and as there are many poor persons unable to pay for medical assistance, whose circumstances would yet enable them very well to maintain themselves, with such patients the remaining wards might be filled.

Very different, however, is the administration of the county hospitals in Ireland, or at least of the generality of them. One third of the established fund goes by way of sinecure salary to some surgeon or obstetrical practitioner, who usually having the largest share of practice in the neighbourhood, gives himself as little concern as possible about the relief of the poor, generally deputing the hospital practice to an apprentice, who has had perhaps six, twelve, or eighteen months experience in his profession. The number of patients accommodated in the

house

house seldom exceeds six or seven with trivial ailments, the more considerable injuries not frequently occurring in the country; and the doctor declaring that the intention of the institution is confined to surgical patients, excuses himself from receiving these acute cases, which are almost exclusively those that among the poor require medical assistance. The far greater number of wards being therefore shut up, may be hired out to lodgers by the surgeon, as I am informed has actually been done in one or two instances. How the remainder of the funds of the county hospitals are disposed of, I do not pretend to say; the surgeon is, I believe, the principal administrator, and his accounts are occasionally laid before the patrons by whom he has been appointed. Yet these gentlemen do not think that their merit and labours in the service of the poor are sufficiently remunerated; or that the revenues of their country are sufficiently exhausted by the numerous sinecure appointments, and gratuitous pensions that are already squandered on men who have as few pretensions as themselves. Like the unprincipled crew of a sinking vessel, they desire that they also should partake of the spoils, and have actually resolved to petition parliament for *another third* of the fixed funds of the charity. While the sick of an extensive parish in England are not only supplied with medical attendance, but with medicine also for ten pounds a year, though they are widely dispersed through the country, the few patients that seek relief at an Irish county hospital are collected under the eye of the surgeon. In the cities of Ireland the case is far different. Here, abundant hospitals are erected and endowed for the relief of the poor, and medical practitioners are emulous of the honour of being elected to administer their elymosynary aid.

To effect the object then, of "more effectual medical assistance to the poor in the provincial parts of Ireland," I would humbly propose that each subscriber, to a certain amount, be qualified to vote for the election of a surgeon to a county hospital; and it is probable that the majority of a *numerous* body would fix on a person of probity and high professional reputation. The salaries hitherto paid I would propose to withdraw, and I make no doubt that very many medical men of the highest respectability in the several counties would eagerly come forward to contend for the appointment, and devote to it their *real* services, and that the number of subscriptions would be considerably augmented from the institution becoming really use-

ful,

ful, from the ambition of having a vote in the election of a surgeon, and from the probability of obtaining accommodation in the house for the patients they might recommend. The plan is not novel, I believe it is the plan on which the generality of county hospitals in England, as well as the hospitals in the Irish cities, are conducted.

ANTIPECULATOR.

Kilkenny, January 13, 1806.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

THE small-pox, for the last three or four months has been unusually prevalent in the town of Bromley, and the adjoining village; and as great numbers of the children in this neighbourhood were vaccinated about three or four years ago, the prophylactic efficacy of the cow-pox has been put to a very decided test. It has frequently happened that children who were vaccinated at a former period, have, in a small room, and for a considerable time, breathed an atmosphere, rendered highly infectious by the respiration of other children of the same family labouring under the variolous disorder. You will readily conceive, that under these circumstances, various reports, originating in ignorance and prejudice, have been circulated to the disadvantage of vaccination. In fact, the same arts have been practised here, which have disgraced many other places, and particularly the metropolis, to discourage people from availing themselves of this most fortunate discovery; a discovery which will hand down the name of the immortal Jenner to the remotest posterity, as the greatest benefactor of his species. These reports have produced a lukewarmness in some of the friends of vaccination, an unwillingness in the poor to have their children vaccinated; and have infused doubts into the minds of many persons, who from their education, and more liberal habits of thinking, were certainly competent to make a more correct estimate of that cloud of evidences in favour of its prophylactic virtue, which from the commencement of the discovery to the present moment, have been perpetually accumulating, not only in this kingdom but in all parts of the world. We have beheld the effects of these unfounded rumours

rumours with a very lively concern; and it is a duty which we owe to the public, to enter our most solemn protest against them; and to declare thus openly and confidently, that we have witnessed only *a single exception,* (which shall immediately be explained) and that no other individual, who had been vaccinated at any former period, has taken the small-pox, though under circumstances in which it was impossible to have escaped the infection, had they not been secured by the mild, but unquestionable influence of vaccination.

CASE.

Henry Cooper, (according to our case-book, from which we have made the following extract) was vaccinated at the age of four months, on March 15, 1800. The arm rose, and the pustule went through the regular stages; but the surrounding efflorescence was much less than usual. Early in January last, this child was attacked with fever, which was followed by a considerable eruption. The pustules were in general smaller than they are in the natural small-pox, but some of them certainly bore the variolous character. This child's brother, who never had been vaccinated, died at the same time of the confluent small-pox.

In this case the absence of a due quantity of inflammation surrounding the pustule, was a remarkable peculiarity; and from our noticing it in this particular instance *at the time,* and not finding a similar remark on any *other of our* cases, which we *recorded,* it is obvious to conclude, that we *did* entertain some doubts of this child's security.

We have deemed this case deserving of publication, because a general distrust in the preventive powers of vaccination has been excited by it in this neighbourhood. Whatever may be the public opinion respecting this case, it is after all but a *solitary one;* and *our* confidence in vaccination is not diminished by it. We most sincerely lament the prejudices to which it has given rise; and *we* are determined strenuously to support the *vaccine* inoculation, and oppose the *variolous.* It is much in the power of *professional men* successfully to combat such prejudices; and it is their *duty,* we apprehend, to eradicate them, *if possible,* from the minds of the public.

We remain, &c.

SCOTT & TAYNTON, SURGEONS.

Bromley, Kent, February 12, 1806.

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To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

THE fatal effects which have often been produced by eating Mushrooms, have not been sufficient to prevent their being continually used, as an article of diet. We have the evidence of some celebrated Naturalists, that what is called the esculent mushroom, when gathered from certain situations, or during some peculiar states of the atmosphere, acts as a poison.*

The disease which I am about to describe, seemed to have its origin from a source of this kind. On the 26th of last September, I was called to Mrs. F——, a married lady of about 36 years of age. She complained of pain in her throat, and had a considerable difficulty in swallowing. On inspection, I found the fauces of a dark red colour; no ulceration, nor much tumefaction. Her stomach seemed distended and loaded. She had perceived her stomach thus disordered for some days, attended with frequent and disagreeable eructations. She did not at that time recollect having eaten any thing which had particularly disagreed with her. I ordered an emetic; the volatile liniment to be applied to the external fauces; and a gargle to be used, composed of nit. potassæ; gummi mimos. nilot. et aquæ. On the 27th, the throat not quite so red: she complained of great difficulty in swallowing, which she described as proceeding from an enlargement of the root of her tongue. This part (her tongue) was moist at the edges, but the rest of it was covered with a light coloured fur. A blister was applied from ear to ear, and a gentle opening medicine was given. On the next morning her tongue was so much enlarged, that she could not speak intelliigbly; it was covered, as far as could be seen, with a very thick dark coloured substance. The difficulty of swallowing seemed now to depend altogether on the enlargement of her tongue. ℞. Infus. rosæ, quo os et fauces sæpè de die colluantur. Boracis sodæ ʒi. mel. acet. vini. aa. ℥i. misce. Her tongue was frequently rubbed with this liniment; and the opening medicine was repeated. On the 29th, the swelling had considerably abated,

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* Nouveau Dictionnaire d'Histoire Naturelle, appliqué aux Arts, principalement à l'Agriculture & à l'Economie rurale & domestique.

abated, and she was better in every respect. Warm milk was her only diet during this treatment.

On the 3d of October, her tongue was reduced to nearly its natural size, and looked quite clean. About this time, the submaxillary glands on the right side became enlarged. The swelling extended itself down the greatest part of the neck, and she complained of great soreness about the thyroid cartilage. A saponaceous liniment was applied, and a cataplasm of the crumbs of bread and the diluted aq. lytharg. acetat. On the 6th, the soreness near the cartilage had nearly left her; but the swelling of the glands and of the neck increased, and became very painful. On the 9th, a large blister was applied to the whole swelled part; and on account of the sense of weight and distention returning in the stomach, another emetic was given. When the blister had risen, a fluid was discharged from it, having the appearance of pus; and seemed to proceed from every part where the cuticle had been detached by the blister. On account of the pain and want of sleep, an opiate was given every night; and a tonic medicine at intervals during the day, to counteract the debility attending this complaint. The discharge from the blister was kept up by a stimulating ointment; and during this time the pain considerably abated, but returned with redoubled violence when the part healed. The lower part of the tumour then increased in size: it was poulticed, and in a short time burst and discharged a large quantity of purulent matter. In the beginning of November the abscess healed, and the pain returned, extending itself to the ear on the same side.

Having observed a remission of the violent symptoms during the time when the blister was kept open, and again whilst the abscess kept discharging, I had reason to hope for permanent relief from a long continued drain from another part of the body. The event answered my expectation. A blister was applied to that part of the arm where issues are usually placed; and it was caused to discharge till the latter end of November. Another was then applied to the other arm: the pain and swelling gradually left the patient; and before Christmas, she had regained her usual state of health.

REMARKS.

During the progress of the complaint, the patient recollected that she had eaten mushrooms on the day preceding her first indisposition. They had the appearance, as well

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as the flavour of good ones, but appeared old got. She said that her pudenda et mamma had become enlarged and painful, previous to her throat being affected. After which they ceased to trouble her.

The singular symptoms attending this complaint; the parts affected in succession; the relief obtained by the discharge from the blisters, and from the abscess; afford a subject worthy of particular consideration.

The noxious effects sometimes produced by the agaricus campestris; attributed by the French Naturalists to certain changes produced on them by fogs, time of gathering them, &c. may, perhaps, in part, arise from a source which has not hitherto been explored by the Medical Chemist.

It is my intention to enter on a series of experiments, to ascertain the changes induced on mushrooms by the action of their juices on metallic substances. May not a part of their poisonous effects arise from a source of this kind? Analogy leads us to this conclusion. The solvent powers of some extremely mild substances are very evident, when brought into contact with metals. If the results of my experiments should be such as I expect, an account of them will be laid before the public.

I am, &c.

JOHN WHITLAM.

Nottingham, Feb. 10, 1806.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

Gentlemen,

My attention has been irresistibly led by a concatenation of plausible circumstances to the consideration of a subject which, in point of curious phenomena, affords one of the most interesting inquiries connected with the animal economy; I mean, that species of monstrosity called *Nævæ Maternæ*, or mother's marks, as they are vulgarly termed. It is a generally received opinion, that these appearances take place in consequence of impressions made on the mind of the mother, and conveyed, by mean of the nervous system, to the fœtus. That this opinion is founded in error, it is my object in the following observations to prove; in this attempt I know that I have not only to combat

bat popular opinion, but likewise that of many reputable medical practitioners, with whom I have the honour to be acquainted.—The utter impossibility of such effects taking place from such a cause I do most steadily contend for, and that for the following reasons: There is no nervous communication wha ever, direct or indirect, between the mother and foetus; and as all sensation must be conveyed through the medium of the nerves, impressions made (however strong) upon the mother's mind, cannot affect the child. That there is no nervous communication is evident from the circumstance, that you may commit any act of violence upon the funis umbilicalis, without exciting sensation either in parent or child. That there is no other source of communication between the fœtal and maternal parts, is known to every person who has attended to the anatomy of the uterine system, as the placenta cannot be injected from the uterine vessels, or the uterus from the placenta, not even by the most subtle injection that we know of. That all the parts of an animal are completely formed *ab origine*, we have every reason to believe, though its extreme minuteness and fluidity conceal it for a time from our sight; it is an evolution of, and not a subsquent conformation of parts which takes place; for at a very early period we are enabled, by means of a microscope, to discover the rudiments of the fœtus. Now to apply this to my present purpose; if an animal body is completely formed in embryo, how is it possible that parts should be added or removed by impressions made upon the mother's mind at an advanced period of pregnancy. I will relate a case in point: A lady, distantly related to my family, had a son born with one arm only; the reason she assigned for this deformity was, that when she was about six months advanced in her pregnancy, a mendicant sailor, whose arm had been amputated near the shoulder, thrust his stump in her face, with a view to extort alms; this made such an impression upon her mind, that she attributed the dismemberment of her child to that cause. Allowing this to be possible, what is to become of the member so removed? It cannot escape out of the uterus, except per vaginam, and remaining there, it will act as an extraneous body, the consequence of which must soon be evident; what then is the cause? this is a question involved in too much obscurity for me to attempt to unravel; it is physiological, which perhaps, like the theory of conception, may never satisfactorily be explained; I can only say, that nature is not equally perfect in all her operations;

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we see both in plants and animals considerable deviations from her usual standard. It is not peculiar to the human species; it takes place both in oviparous and viviparous animals, equally frequent in the brute as in man; neither is it the external part alone which becomes subject to these varieties, the internal organization is often found to be defective; there have been instances where only one kidney existed, where the gall bladder was wanting, where a child has been born at the full time of utero gestation and of full growth, without the least particle of osseous matter in its whole system.* This surely could not take place from imaginary causes; how it does take place I know not; but of this I am firmly persuaded, that let the appearance be what it may, that appearance took its rise at the very moment of conception.

Should these observations stimulate further inquiry in any of your more intelligent correspondents, I shall conceive myself amply rewarded for my trouble.

I am, &c.

Finsbury Dispensary,
St. John's-Square, Feb. 14, 1806.

MICHAEL BARTLETT.

Extract *from the Proceedings of the Institution to promote* Cow-Pox Inoculation, *in the Town of* Nottingham.

At a meeting of the Medical Faculty, residing in Nottingham, held October 16, 1805, for the purpose of considering the propriety of their coming forward as a Body to promote some plan for a general Cow-pock Inoculation:

Resolved. Ist. That it is our unanimous opinion that the inoculation of the Cow-pock, as discovered by Dr. Jenner, illustrated and practised by himself and others, is highly deserving the patronage and support of all ranks, but more especially of the Medical Faculty, as holding forth, under skilful management, the most efficacious protection from the multiplied evils of that periodical pestilence the natural small pox, and even promising the entire extermination of that direful contagion, whenever the means can be devised of enforcing a general adoption of it at a very early period of life.

 That

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* This preparation, which is I believe unique, is in the museum of my friend Mr. Taunton.

That this has several years been the decided opinion of the greater number now present, appears from the individual though ineffectual support they have given to that practice, both by their example in their own families and among their relations, their reasonings, and their offers of gratuitious inoculation to the poor.

2nd. That as it does not appear the practice of Cow-pock inoculation has hitherto been adopted here in the degree that the individual exertions of the Medical Faculty in its favour would have justified us in expecting, we have judged it expedient THUS TO DECLARE IN A BODY, our unanimous opinion in favour of this practice, and our earnest recommendation that some plan may be adopted to encourage a general inoculation of the Cow-pock among all ranks, and that a permanent charitable establishment be formed, under proper directors, for the sole purpose of extending its benefits to the poor gratuitously.

3rd. That as the extension of contagion by the practice of small-pox inoculation is wholly inconsistent with the object we now have in view, we do hereby engage to do all in our power to dissuade from and discourage that practice.

4th. That three of our number be deputed to wait upon the Mayor with these resolutions, requesting his concurrence in their object, so far as to call a general meeting of the inhabitants of the town, in the hope of obtaining the sanction of our fellow citizens, and their support in conducting a measure that appears to us full of importance.

Resolved,—that Dr. Pennington, Mr. Attenburrow, and Mr. Calton, be appointed to wait upon the Mayor for the above purpose.

SIGNED,

JOHN STORER, M. D.	THOMAS BIRCH
WILLIAM MARSDEN, M. D.	THOMAS HUCKELL
CHAR. PENNINGTON, M. D.	THOMAS CALTON
JAMES CLARKE, M. D.	ROBERT THOMPSON
THOMAS WRIGHT	JOSEPH FLEWITT
JOHN WRIGHT	BENJAMIN MADDOCK
WARTON PARTRIDGE	SAMUEL MADDOCK
JOHN ATTENBURROW	JOHN BIGSBY
THOMAS BASNETT	HENRY OLDKNOW
WILLIAM WILLIAMS	RICHARD WING.

At a general meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Nottingham, convened by the Mayor, held at the Exchange Hall, on Wednesday the 23d day of October, 1805,

1805, to consider of the best means of promoting a plan of General Vaccination, and of forming an establishment for the purpose of extending its benefits to the poorer classes of this populous town,

EDW. SWAN, Esq. Mayor, in the Chair,

Resolved unanimously, that this meeting, impressed by the very interesting representation of the gentlemen of the faculty made to the Mayor, entertains the most firm conviction that a permanent establishment for inoculating the poor with the Cow-pock, and for promoting a General Inoculation for the same through all ranks of society within the reach of our influence, is worthy of the patronage and support of the great body of the inhabitants of this manufacturing district, and that a public subscription be solicited to be applied to this purpose.

Resolved unanimously, that a small permanent committee be appointed to consist of the following gentlemen, viz. The MAYOR, Dr. STORER, Dr. PENNINGTON, The Rev. CHARLES WYLDE. D. D. The Rev. Mr. ALLIOTT, Mr. ATTENBURROW, and Mr. MADDOCK, who shall be called "The Directors of the Institution for promoting a General Inoculation for the Cow Pock, within the town of Nottingham," who are empowered by this Meeting to devise the best means of attaining the object of this Institution, and who being charged with the power of carrying the same into complete execution, shall direct the application of the funds which the public may think proper to devote to this purpose, and be authorized to elect a Secretary, and to appoint new members of the Institution, whenever it may be necessary in consequence of the death, absence, or resignation of any of the present members.

EDWARD SWANN, MAYOR.

Resolved, that the thanks of this meeting be given to the Mayor for calling the same, and for his liberal conduct throughout the whole of the business thereof.

The Directors of the Vaccine Institution trust, that a practice which promises such very considerable individual and general advantages, and which has been recommended by the unanimous voice of all the Medical Faculty, will be universally adopted; the only remaining obstacle, that of trouble and expence to the poor, it is the design of the Institution which they have been appointed to conduct, to obviate. Relying on the benevolent liberality of the wealthy, they have engaged Mr. CALTON, on whose skill and attention they can depend, to inoculate the children of the poor at

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their own houses, and to inspect the progress of the disease; in the discharge of which trust they have the satisfaction to announce, that he will be regularly assisted by Dr. Clarke, and, if necessary, by the advice of the Medical Gentlemen of the Institution; and they earnestly intreat the poor, on their part, to accept the offer which Mr. Calton will make them, as the means of preserving themselves and their families from a most direful disease,—their children from death, or from disorders which render life burdensome and useless,—and their neighbours from a malignant and destructive contagion.—They beg leave, finally, to protest against the practice of small-pox inoculation; a resource, which, although it produces satisfaction to individual persons, yet at the same time exposes the lives and comfort of many hundreds to imminent danger; and is calculated to disseminate and perpetuate the most deadly pest with which the world has been ever visited.

By Order of the Directors,

Nottingham, Nov. 12, 1805. GEO. COLDHAM, Sec.

We have now the satisfaction of presenting some report of the progress of this laudable institution by the following extracts of a letter addressed to Dr. Walker; on which he has made a few practical observations, in the form of notes, hoping at the time, he says, that our insertion of them may obtain for Dr. Clarke, as well as himself, interesting communication from some of our ingenious correspondents.

On the Business of the Royal Jennerian Society,

Dr. Walker, *Salisbury Square, London.*

Sir,

It is time that I acknowledge the receipt of ichor from you, and return my sincere thanks for your kindness; but I was unwilling to write before our practice in vaccination had advanced sufficiently forward to allow some confidence to our reports and observations.

With the vaccine ichor received from you during Mr. Calton's visit in London, I inoculated a very fine child, in which the progress of the disease was perfectly regular, answering to the description of authors on vaccine-pox, as well as to my observations and experiments in eight cases, in the year 1801, during my residence in Edinburgh. From this child we have perpetuated the disease through four

hundred

hundred and ten persons; although *we* did not use the second supply of ichor, we were too sensible of its value to suffer it to be lost, and other practitioners were favoured with it.

The progress of the disease was very soon observed to be much retarded,* either by very cold weather, or from much exposure to cold, particularly in debilitated children, which form the majority among the poor of this place; this observation induced us, in fact obliged us, in many instances, to take the ichor for inoculation on the seventh or eighth day, by medical computation; a method of calculation I am sorry to say not sufficiently understood, and which should certainly be explained in every treatise on the disease: from inattention to this circumstance, I have no doubt many controversies have arisen; we are particularly cautious not to take ichor even on these days, (7th or 8th) if any fever, areola, circumscribed induration, or change in the fluid, shall have arisen.

The plan first proposed by Dr. Pearson or Mr. Bryce, (for both claim it) of testing, is that which we follow, but inoculate by one puncture only, and on the sixth day in the other arm; which second inoculation, for so it certainly is, we are seldom refused: it is necessary to remark that the day does not guide us in this test but the state of the vesicle; in most cases the last equals the first in every respect but extent. Each patient is visited four times; on the third visit, which is generally on the tenth day, a purgative of jalap, or jalap and calomel in combination, is prescribed; we were induced to adopt this plan in compliance with popular prejudice.†

None are considered secure but when the scab is complete and presents the dark mahogany colour with a shining smooth surface; but when from the test and one or more inoculations, no effect is produced, they are considered unsusceptible of cow-pox.‡

Whenever the vesicle (a term we employ in contradistinction

* Such retardation is a circumstance of common occurrence when the puncture is made too slightly.

† This compliance I uniformly decline at the Central House, remarking, that the vaccine inoculation has even a purifying effect, superceding the necessity of any *other* purgative or purifier.

‡ I have, in one instance, inoculated a child ten times (literally twenty times; both arms being punctured each time;) before I succeeded in producing any effect. How different is this case from that of Robert Hughes! Vide Medical and Physical Journal, vol. xii. p. 45.

tinction to pustule, the first containing ichor, the last pus) is ruptured,* a reinoculation is performed, exclusive of the test; we do not think this so necessary after the tenth day, if the progress have been regular; but if any doubt arise, even then, or on any other occasion, the subject is re-inoculated.

We have not found any inconvenience to attend inoculation during teething, hooping cough, &c. provided that the fever of these affections be not violent.

We have observed a circumstance which we do not remember ever to have seen remarked; that, if any acute disease occurs during the progress of the vaccine *vesicle*, it is retarded, or rather remains stationary, and the *whole surface* of the vesicle, which is unusually large, is depressed, as the pock in variola from too great exposure to cold, debility, &c. although, in other respects, the vaccine vesicle is perfectly correct; no less than six of these cases have occured in our practice.

Eleven subjects have been inoculated, who were suspected to have had the small-pox when very young; in three of these cases the pock proceeded to maturation, but in two of them the erythema, or areola, was very slight, and without any circumscribed induration; in the remaining eight cases, slight inflammation followed the puncture, and a vesicle arose but soon desquamated.

We have in about ten cases observed a peculiar scab following a regular vesicle, it is formed earlier than the usual scab; but I am quite at a loss for words to describe it, so as to be understood; it is of a greyish brown colour, laminated, considerably elevated above the surface of the cuticle, and about four times the dimensions of the common scab; its edges are ragged, and its surface rough; the persons on whom it is observed have in general been scorbutic. Another irregularity is the scab of an amber colour, which does not rise above the surface of the cuticle; we consider it unsatisfactory; in both these irregularities the first scab has been rubbed off: if they be re-inoculated while these scabs remain, the fresh puncture in four or five days

* In the numbers which it continually falls to my lot to inoculate, it is generally extremely easy to determine by the eye when the effect is complete; but, when the pock has been ruptured, and even almost obliterated, if I can feel, about the tenth day, a degree of hardness and tumefaction about the inoculated part, I find in people of every colour that the protection is complete; and without such inflammation I suspect that the effect is never perfect.

days puts on the same appearance; on the other hand if the scabs have fallen off, the inoculation does not take effect.*

The following is a case of the prophylactic power of the cow-pox.

Charles Judge, eight months, Charlotte Square.

Register, No. 221. *Dec.* 27, 1805.

Has been seven days exposed to the small-pox effluvia, from a child in the same house, since dead of the disease in its malignant form. C. Judge was inoculated this morning (Dec. 27) by Mr. Calton, with fresh fluid ichor from No. 181, (vide Register) by two punctures in each arm.

The mother says this child has laboured under ague, attended with convulsions, for three months; countenance sallow; appears much debilitated.

The father was a sailor, is disabled, and begs his bread with his family from town to town.

Jan. 3, 1806. The inoculated parts present well-formed vesicles.

Jan. 9. The vesicles are very complete specimens of cow-pocks.

Jan. 12. Small papulæ have appeared on the limbs and abdomen, but in greater number on the back, resembling swine (chicken) pock, fevered.

Jan. 14. The apices of the pocks full of serum, some desquamating.

Jan. 17. The pocks desquamating, the scabs on the inoculated parts are complete.

The chicken-pox prevails in the neighbourhood. Two children, one of the same house, the other in the next, are now ill of the small-pox; the parents refused to have them vaccinated.

I shall detail one more case, shewing the possibility of the cow-pox and the small-pox proceeding together.

Elizabeth Hall, eighteen months, Poynton Street.

Register, No. 254. *Dec.* 31, 1805.

Has been eleven days exposed to the effluvia of small-pox, with which her brother and bed-fellow is completely covered, in the distinct form, but innumerable; she was this day (Dec. 31) inoculated by four punctures with fresh fluid from No. 217, (vide Register) and appears in perfect health.

Jan.

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* All these varieties of appearance in the scab appear to me to have been of the same nature with what is noticed in the beginning of the second paragraph of p. 45, vol. xii. Medical and Physical Journal.

Jan. 5, 1806. Inoculations have taken; much fevered; several small papulæ resembling small-pox appear on the face and breast.

Jan. 9. Has about three hundred full formed, distinct, small variolous pustules in various parts of the body; no fever; the four vesicles of cow-pox are perfectly regular.

Jan. 17. Variolous pustules dried up and falling off in scabs. The vaccine scabs very complete. The small-pox has been so mild as not to interrupt her usual amusements.

I shall not make any remark on these two cases, but shall wait with anxiety for your free and unreserved observations, as it is only by liberal open comment that knowledge can be acquired.

I remain, &c.

JAMES CLARKE,

Nottingham, Jan. 19, 1806. Physician to the Vaccine Institution.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

WHILE the business of medical reform only occupied the attention of the Lincolnshire Benevolent Medical Society, and the consideration of it was confined to a few obscure individuals in a remote part of a distant county, the subject appeared too ridiculous, and the promoters of it too inconsiderable to merit serious attention. But since this matter has been agitated in the metropolis; since plans have been handed about, sanctioned by the approbation of the College of Physicians; since it appears evident that such proceedings will lead to an increase of burthens on a profession already too much oppressed, it becomes an imperious duty on every member of that profession to consider well, before he sanctions by his approbation any deceitful measures of reform. I hope, therefore, to be excused for employing your pages in detecting the fallacy and iniquity of such proceeding; and if in the course of my observations, bold assertions should sometimes occur, I shall be careful that they are always such as may be supported by reference to facts, should necessity require it. However the medical profession has been stigmatized, and whatever may have been said of the degraded state of the practitioners of it, I shall assume as a fact,

fact, that, taken collectively, no public body is to be found, which combines more learning, information, and industry; and that even among the lower professors of it, are to be selected men, whose natural abilities and acquired knowledge would not disgrace the list of the Royal College of Physicians. At the same time it must be allowed, that many persons have taken upon themselves the practice of medicine, without sufficient ability for so arduous an undertaking. This, however, has arisen from no fault in the profession, nor any neglect in the practitioners of it, but merely from the depraved state of the public opinion.

Medicine is an art dependent on public estimation; and those engaged in the practice of it, are more than any other set of men the creatures of fashion and caprice. If the voice of the multitude asserts that certain horse-doctors possess an universal knowledge of human diseases, as has been notoriously the case with the Taylors, the famous Whitworth doctors, what human power can prevent the credulous from submitting themselves, or their relations, to the care of such practitioners? And is it just that every medical man is to be taxed, because such is the folly of public opinion? If the powers of the strongest mind will not prevent such delusion, how can it be supposed that legal punishment would annihilate such pretenders to medical science?

Government is in the annual receipt of a considerable sum from the tax on patent medicines, which are sold in large quantities, with very little injury to the medical profession, and still less to the community, the nostrums being for the most part composed of ingredients too simple to occasion mischief. Is it then to be supposed that this lucrative branch of the revenue will be abandoned, or that the compounders of these nostrums, who frequently add M. D. to their names, are sufficiently under the law to be prevented promulgating their remedies? Many of the good people of England, and several even of those in exalted stations, would bear with equal impatience a government order for the abolition of theatrical amusements, as for the destruction of these worthy advocates for public esteem, who furnish the nervous invalid, and the debilitated rake, such abundant promises of returning health and renovated vigour. Perhaps it will be argued, that these are no reasons against a medical reform, and no refutation of the assertion, that the practice of medicine is in the hands of those who are incompetent: it is not contended

tended that this assertion is yet answered, but the above stated facts are only adduced to show the difficulty, or indeed impossibility of restraining public opinion.

I next contend, that the very cause of this apparent degradation, is no other than an effort in the different members of the profession to maintain their respectability. It is notorious, that the few years of the last and present war have experienced an immense increase in every article of necessary consumption; and it is equally notorious that few, and those very inadequate advances, have been made by the medical profession, to enable them to meet the pressure of the times. People of reflection, viewing this circumstance, become unwilling to educate their children in a profession, whose toil is continual, and whose reward is poverty. The medical practitioner, obliged to have assistance in the compounding medicines, takes into his shop young men, whose toil repay their instruction while in his service, but whose previous education had been very inadequate to the study of the science of medicine; while medical students of better education, balancing in their minds the trifling difference between the expence incurred by a three years residence in Edinburgh, from whence they return with a degree of Doctor in Medicine, authorising them to take fees at each visit, and that of a two years residence in London, returning from whence they may visit a patient five times without receiving five farthings, are wisely led to turn their steps to the north, rather than to expose themselves to the humiliating condition of country apothecaries. Hence we find physicians in places where, formerly, the apothecary was the only medical adviser, except in desperate cases, when a physician was sought from a distance; and in places where formerly one physician resided, we have at this time two, three, or sometimes four. This consequence necessarily follows, the practice is insufficient to the support of the practitioners, and yet they must subsist; interested intimacies are formed with such members of the profession, as from ignorance or timidity are most likely to require their early assistance; the provinces of the surgeon and accoucheur are invaded, dispensaries are established, not merely for the purpose of supplying relief to the poor, but for the purpose of forming a connection and character, and occasionally furnishing medicine privately; the practice of sending prescriptions to druggists is encouraged; and druggists, or ill informed shopmen of apothecaries, are established in villages, under the

the patronage of physicians, in order to promote the interest of the latter.

To remedy the evil complained of, I should therefore recommend a radical reform in the manners of the professsion; that they should mutually consider the situations of each other; that physicians, confining themselves to their particular province, should cease to interfere with surgery, &c. and only write where their prescriptions may be carried to the apothecary to be properly compounded, not trusted to the ignorance of a druggist, and the evil materials of his dirty shop; while apothecaries, by refusing to admit into their shops any other than youths properly prepared, would in time insure to the profession a respectable set of practitioners, equally unwilling to degrade the profession as to injure a brother practitioner.

I am, &c.

Feb. 14, 1806. VERITAS.*

P.S. I purpose, in a future communication, to offer some remarks on the Rules, said, in the Chirurgical Review, to be those circulated by the Royal College of Physicians.

Botanical Description of British Plants.

[Continued from Vol. xv. p. 66—72.]

3. ARBUTUS. *A. uva ursi.* — *Vaccinia-ursi.*

Ang. Bear berries. Bear whortle berries. Bear berry. Strawberry-tree. Trailing Arbutus.

Gen. Desc. As above.

Spec. Desc. Stem trailing. *Leaves* oblong-egg-shaped, very entire, veined like net work underneath. *Bloss* flesh-colour; tinged with red, mouth contracted. *Berries* red. *Dry heaths and woods.* BL. May, June.

Use. The leaves have in a dried state a bitterish astringent taste. The berries insipid, pulpy, and mealy. The uva-ursi was much employed by the Ancients as an astringent; but in modern practice was neglected, till, about the middle of the 18th century, it acquired celebrity for its efficacy in *calculous* and *nephritic* affections, and also in

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* The Editors cannot admit future communications on this subject without the address of the Writer.

in almost every complaint to which the urinary organs are liable, as ulcers of the kidneys and bladder, cystirrhœa, diabetes, &c. It was first used at Montpellier for this purpose, and afterwards by Dr. de Haen at Vienna, who relates several cases, in which it proved of the greatest service. But in England its success has been more uncertain; some patients found no relief, and some thought their complaints rather aggravated than alleviated; while in other calculous and nephritic cases, the symptoms have been almost entirely removed. Perhaps, upon the whole, it may be found no better than other vegetable astringents; some of which have been long used by the country people in gravelly complaints and with very great advantage, tho' hitherto unnoticed by the regular practitioners. *Half a drachm* of the powdered leaves given every day, or every other day, has been found useful in calculous cases. From Dr. Alexander's experiments, the leaves seem to possess very little diuretic power; and those made by Murray show that they have no material effect upon the urinary calculi; their efficacy therefore in calculous diseases must be ascribed to their astringency, and this is confirmed by the opinion of Dr. Cullen, *M. M. ii. p.* 12.—The leaves may be employed either in powder or decoction; the former is commonly preferred, and given in doses from a scruple to a drachm two or three times a day.—Those plants which grow in dry, lofty, and exposed situations, are preferred for medical use, to those found in vallies and shady ground.—This plant is much used in Sweden to dye an ash-colour, and to tan leather. *Woodville. Withering.* Horses, cows, sheep and goats refuse it.

4. SCELERANTHUS. *S annuus.*

Ang. German knotgrass. Annual knawell.

Gen. Desc. Cal. one-leaf; bloss. o, seed one, inclosed in a cup.

Spec. Desc. Cal. Segments, thornless, tapering to a point; open, the fruit is ripe. *Branches* opposite, or alternate, woolly. *Leaves* with membranaceous and downy edges, smooth above. *Flowers* in clusters, greenish. *Stamens* 6 to 9, unequal, some barren. *Sandy ground, corn fields.* BL. July, Aug.

Use. The Swedes and Germans make use of this plant to cure the *tooth-ach,* receiving into their mouths the vapour arising from a decoction of it.—Sheep and goats eat it; cows refuse it. *Withering.*

Decandria

Decandria Digynia.

5. Sceleranthus. *S. perennis.—Polygonum cocciferum.*

Ang. Perennial Knawell. Hoary Knawell.

Gen. Desc. As above.

Spec. Desc. *Cal. segm.* blunt; nearly closed when the fruit is ripe. *Stems* not always woolly. *Leaves* sea-green, fringed. *Stam.* 10. *Flowers* greenish, edged with white. *Sandy corn fields.* Bl. July, Aug.

Use. Upon the roots of this plant is found in the summer months, the Polish cochineal, *Coccus Polonicus,* an insect which affords an excellent and valuable scarlet dye. *Hill.—Withering.*

6. Saponaria. *S. officinalis.—S. vulgaris. Lychnis Saponaria dicta.*

Ang. Bruise wort. Soap wort.

Gen. Desc. Cal. one-leaf, naked. Petals five, with claws. Caps. oblong, one-cell.

Spec. Desc. *Cal.* cylindrical. *Leaves* egg-spear-shaped, sitting, opposite, three-fibred. *Flowers* terminating, flesh-colour, or white. *Meadows, hedges.* Bl. July, Aug.

Use. Its medical effects, which must be considerable, have not yet been accurately ascertained. The diseases for which it is recommended, *syphilis, gout, rheumatism,* and *jaundice,* are not perhaps those in which its use may be most availing: for a fancied resemblance of its roots with those of sarsaparilla, seems to have led Physicians to think them similar in their effects; and hence they have both been administered with the same intentions, particularly in fixed pains and venereal affections. Bergius says, "In arthritide, cure mercuriale, &c. nullum aptiorem potum novi." However, according to several writers, the most inveterate cases of *syphilis* were cured by a decoction of this plant, without the use of mercury. *Rudius Septalius, &c.* See *Woodville.* Boerhaave, as we learn from Haller, entertained a high opinion of its efficacy in jaundice, and other visceral obstructions. The whole plant is bitter. A decoction of it applied externally cures the *itch.* The Germans use it instead of sarsaparilla in *venereal* complaints. M. Andry of Paris, cured violent gonorrhœas, by giving daily half an ounce of the inspissated juice. By the use of the extract and a decoction of the leaves and roots, M. Jurine cures old venereal complaints, such as ulcers, pains, and emaciations, which resisted the use of mecury. *See Journ. de. Med. t. lxvi, p.* 478. Bruised and agitated with water it raises a lather like soap, which

which washes greasy spots out of cloaths.—*Withering.* It has been used by mendicant Monks for washing their cloaths; and Bergius declares, that it has all the effects of soap itself, but that this saponaceous quality is not injured by acids like that of common soap.—*Woodville.*

Decandria. Trigynia.

7. Cucubalus. *C. behen.—Lychnis sylvestris. Papaver spumeum.*

Ang. Spatling poppy. White bottle. Bladder campion. White ben.

Gen. Desc. Cal. inflated. Petals five, with claws, not crowned at the mouth. Caps. three-celled.

Spec. Desc. Cal. nearly globular, smooth, white, or purplish, with a net-work of green or purple veins. *Leaves* egg-spear-shaped, glaucous, smooth. *Flowers* white. Pistils, sometimes on the sea-coast 4. *Corn fields, dry meadows, pastures.* Bl. June, Aug.

Use. By the inhabitants of Gothland the leaves are applied to *erysipelatous* eruptions.—These leaves boiled have something of the flavor of pease; and in 1685, when a swarm of locusts had destroyed the harvest in Minorca, they proved of very considerable service to the inhabitants of that Island.—*Withering.*

8. Stellaria. *S. media.—Alsine media.*

Ang. Common chickweed.

Gen. Desc. Cal. five-leaves, expanding. Petals five, divided down to the base. Caps. one-celled. Seeds many.

Spec. Desc. Petals, deeply divided, white. *Stamens* vary greatly in number. *Leaves* egg-heart-shaped. *Stems* with a hairy ridge on one side. *Caps.* six-valve; *Seeds,* round, compressed, yellow, rough, with little tubercles. *All soils, from the dampest to the driest.* Bl. March, Oct.

Use. The young shoots and leaves boiled, are a very good eatable; they can scarcely be distinguished from spring spinach, and are equally wholesome.—*Withering.* This species of stellaria is a notable instance of what is called the *sleep of plants*; for every night the leaves approach in pairs, so as to include within their upper surfaces the tender rudiments of the new shoots; and the uppermost pair but one, at the end of the stalk, are furnished with longer leaf-stalks than the others, so that they can close upon the terminating pair, and protect the end of the branch, *Linn.* The flowers are open from nine o'clock till

till noon, but of a day that it rains they do not open; after rain they become pendent, but in a few days rise again and are upright. Swine are extremely fond of it; cows and horses eat it; sheep are indifferent to it; goats refuse it. It is a grateful food to small birds, and to young chickens.—*Withering.*

Decandria. Pentagynia.

9. SEDUM. *S. telephium.*

Ang. Orpine stonecrop.

Gen. Desc. Cal. five-cleft; bloss. 0, or five-pet; nectariferous scales five, at the base of the germens. Caps. five, distinct like a legumen.

Spec. Desc. *Leaves* flattish, serrated; *corymbus* leafy; *Stem* upright; *Flowers* white, or more often purple. *Pastures, hedges.* BL. Aug.

Use. A decoction of the leaves in milk is a forcible *diuretic.* It has been given with success to cure the *piles.*—Cows, goats, sheep, and swine eat it; horses refuse it. *Linn.*

10. SEDUM. *S. acre.*—*Sempervivum minus vermiculatum acre. Illecebra minor acris.*

Ang. Pepper stonecrop. Wall pepper. Wall stonecrop.

Gen. Desc. As above.

Spec. Desc. *Leaves* nearly egg-shaped, growing to and sitting, bulging, nearly upright, alternate; *tuft* with three divisions. *Shoots* club.shaped, slosely tiled with leaves on every side. *Flowers* terminating, yellow. *Walls, roofs, rocks, dry pastures.* BL. June, July.

Use. It is acrid and biting to the taste. The juice externally applied is recommended in *ulcerous sores* and *cancers*; taken internally, it operates strongly as an *emetic* and *cathartic.* One oz. of it boiled in 12oz. of ale, and taken in four doses, has been found serviceable in the *dropsy.*—*Lightfoot.* This plant, applied externally, blisters; taken internally, it excites vomiting. In *scorbutic cases,* and *quartan agues,* it is an excellent medicine under proper management.—*Withering.* This species of sedum, in its resent state, is extremely acrid like the hydropiper; hence, if taken in large doses, it acts powerfully on the primæ viæ, proving both *emetic* and *cathartic*; applied to the skin, as a cataplasm, it frequently produces vesications and erosions. Boerhaave imagined therefore that its internal employment must be unsafe; but experience has disco- vered that a decoction of it is not only safe, but of grea

efficacy in *scorbutic* complaints; for which purpose a handful of the herb is directed by Dr. Below, of Sweden, to be boiled in eight pints of beer till reduced to four, of which 3 or 4 oz. are to be taken every, or every other morning. (See *Misc. Nat. Cur. Dec.* 1. *Ann.* 6. *Obs.* 22. *p.* 49.) Milk has been found to answer this purpose better than beer; *Lange. Remed. Bruns. Domest. p.* 121. Not only ulcers simply scorbutic, but those of a *scrophulous* and even *cancerous* tendency, have been cured by the use of this plant, of which several instances are related by Marquet, *Mem. Sur. l'Illecebra, &c.* He likewise found it useful as an external application in destroying fungous flesh, and in promoting a discharge in gangrenes and carbuncles. The stopping of *intermittent fevers,* is another effect for which this plant has been esteemed.—*Woodville.* Goats eat it; horses, cows, sheep, and swine refuse it.

11. SEDUM. *S. rupestre.*

Ang. Rock stonecrop.

Gen. Desc. *As above.*

Spec. Desc. *Leaves* awl-shaped, tiled in five lines, crowded, loose at the base, tea green. *Flowers* in a close, thick, branched tuft; yellow. *Rocks.* BL. July.

Use. Both this and the S. reflexum *(yellow stonecrop, or prick madam,* which differs from this only in the lower leaves being bowed back,) are gathered frequently in Holland and Germany, in order to mix with lettuces in sallads. It is acrid to the taste.

12. OXALIS. *O. acetosella.—Lujula, Alleluja, Acetosella, Oxys alba.*

Ang. Wood sorrel. Cuckoo-bread. Sour trefoil.

Gen. Desc. Cal. five-leaved. Petals connected by claws. Caps. five-sided, opening at the corners.

Spec. Desc. *Stalk* with one flower. *Leaves* three together, often purple underneath; *leafits* inversely-heart-shaped, hairy; they close against rain. *Flowers* large, white, beautifully veined with purple. *Woods, shady hedges, heaths.* BL. April.

Use. Though totally inodorous, this plant has a grateful acid taste, more agreeable than that of common sorrel, (Rumex acetosa) and nearly approaching to that of the juice of lemons or the acid of tartar, with which it also corresponds in a great measure in its medical effects, being esteemed *refrigerant, antiscorbutic* and *diuretic.* It is recommended by Bergius in inflammatory, bilious and putrid fevers. But its principal use is to allay inordinate heat and

and to quench thirst; for this purpose a pleasant whey may be made by boiling the plant in milk, which under certain circumstances may be preferable to the conserve directed by the London College, though an extremely grateful and useful medicine. Many have employed the root, probably more on account of its beautiful red colour, than for its superior efficacy.—*Woodville.* An infusion of the leaves is an agreeable liquor in ardent fevers, and boiled with milk, they make a pleasant whey.—*Lewis.* This plant, which is acid and cooling, is recommended in *fevers* and for the *scurvy.* In the Isle of Arran, a whey or tea is made of it, which is used with good success in putrid and other fevers.—*Lightfoot.*

The *conserve* is directed to be made of the leaves, beaten with thrice their weight of fine sugar.—The expressed juice depurated, properly evaporated, and set in a cool place, affords a crystalline acid salt in considerable quantity, which may be used whenever vegetable acids are wanted. It is sold under the name of Essential Salt of Lemons, and is employed to take ink-stains and iron-moulds out of linen.—*Withering.*

It has lately been discovered that the leaves and stalks, wrapped in a cabbage leaf and macerated in warm ashes till reduced to a pulp, are a successful application to *scrophulous* ulcers; this poultice should remain on the sore for twenty-four hours and be repeated four times. Afterwards the ulcer is to be dressed with a poultice made of the roots of the meadow-sweet, bruised, and mixed up with the scum of sour butter-milk. *Beddoes on Fact. Airs.* The grateful acid taste of the leaves render them useful in sallads, where, in some measure, it supplies the place of vinegar.

13. SPERGULA. *S. arvensis.*

Ang. Corn spurry.

Gen. Desc. Cal. five-leaved. Pet. five, entire. Caps. egg-shaped, one-celled, five valves.

Spec. Desc. *Leaves* in whirls, three on each side, cylindrical, thread like, woolly, clammy. *Stem* thick at the joints. *Fruit stalks* branching. *Flowers* white. *Stamens* 5 to 10. *Seeds* rough, black with a white border. *Corn fields, gravel walks.* BL. July, Sept.

Use. The inhabitants of Finland and Norway, use the seeds to make bread, when their crops of corn fail. Poultry are very fond of them. Experience shews it to be very nutritious to the cattle that eat it.—Horses, sheep, goats, and swine eat it; cows refuse it.—*Withering.*

Class XI. Dodecandria.

Dodecandria. Monogynia.

1. Asarum. *A. Europæum.—A. vulgare.*

Ang. Asarabacca.

Gen. Desc. Cal. three or four cleft, sitting on the germens. Bloss. 0. Caps. leather-crowned, six-celled, no valves.

Spec. Desc. *Leaves* kidney shaped, blunt, in pairs. *Flowers* purplish. *Woods,* scarce. Bl. May.

Use. The roots and leaves have a nauseous bitterish acrid taste; and they are strongly *emetic* and *cathartic.* The root excited vomiting so constantly that it is proposed by Linnæus as a substitute for ipecacuanha; and Dr. Cullen says, "the root dried only so much as to be powdered, proves, in a moderate dose, a gentle emetic; it will answer commonly in doses of a scruple, sometimes in a less quantity," and "as we judge, may be suited to the purposes of ipecacuanha." In small doses, it is said to be *sudorific, diuretic,* and *emmenagogue, Ray. p.* 108. Spirituous tinctures and watery infusions possess both its emetic and cathartic virtues, but coction in water is said to destroy first the emetic and afterwards the purgative power.—*Ray.* The asarum is at present but seldom given internally, the evacuations expected from its use being procured with more certainty and safety by various other medicines; but is chiefly employed as an *errhine,* or *sternutatory,* and is found to be the most useful and convenient in the Mat. Med. The leaves being less acrid than the root, are preferred for this purpose, by the College; and in moderate doses, not exceeding a few grains snuffed up the nose several successive evenings, produce a pretty large watery discharge, which continues sometimes for several days together, by which head-ach, tooth-ach, ophthalmia, and some paralytic and soporific complaints have been effectually relieved. It is the basis of the pulv. sternutatorius, or pulv. asari compositus. It is observed, *Am. Acad. vii. p.* 307, that when exhibited in a state of *very fine powder,* it uniformly acts as an emetic, but when *coarsely powdered,* it passes the stomach and becomes cathartic.—*Woodville.*

The root powdered, and taken to the amount of 30 or 40 grains, excites vomiting.—The powder of the leaves is the basis of most of the cephalic snuffs, which occasion a considerable discharge of mucus from the nostrils, without much sneezing. An infusion of 1 or 2 drachms of the leaves, in wine, vomits.—Cows eat it.—*Withering.*

Dodecandria. Digynia.

2. Carpinus. *C. betulus.*

Ang. Horn beam tree. Hard beam tree. Horse, or horn beech tree.

Gen. Desc. M. and Fem. fl, on the same plant. Bloss. 0. Cal. one-leaf, a fringed scale. M. stamens eighteen or twenty. Fem. germens two, two styles on each, nut-egg-shaped.

Spec. Desc. Scales of the cones flat. *Bark* smooth, white. *Leaves* oval, pointed, sharply serrated. *Stam.* eight to sixteen. *Woods, hedges.* Bl. May.

Use. The inner bark is much used in Scandinavia to dye yellow. The wood burns like a candle; it is very white, very tough, harder than hawthorn, and capable of supporting a great weight; it is useful in turning, and for many implements of husbandry; it makes cogs for mill-wheels, even superior to yew.—Cattle eat the leaves, but pasturage will not flourish in its shade.—It loves a poor stiff soil on the sides of hills; is easily transplanted, and bears lopping.—*Withering.*

3. Agrimonia. *A. eupatoria.—Eupatorium veterum.*

Ang. Common agrimony.

Gen. Desc. Cal. five-toothed, surrounded by another. Petals five. Seeds two, in a caps. at the bottom of the calyx, which becomes indurated.

Spec. Desc. Stem cylindrical, roughish, hairy. *Stem-leaves* winged, the odd leafit on a leaf-stalk. *Leaves* hairy, covered with rising dots, and segments ending in small reddish glands, interruptedly winged; leafits deeply serrated, oblong-egg-shaped; smallest pair entire. *Fruit* hispid; *fruit-stalks* surrounded at the top with a sort of outer calyx, cloven into five spear-shaped irregular segments, hairy at the edges; within, the fruit-stalks covered with white upright bristles, and above a circle of numerous green awns hooked at the end, and within these the proper calyx of five leaves, spear-shaped, concave, glandular without, within marked with three deeper green lines, ending in a reddish point. *Petals* egg-shaped, concave, slightly notched, twice as long as the cap. *Stam.* five to twelve. *Germen* crowned with the calyx and a yellowish fleshy receptacle. *Styles* thread-shaped. *Summits* two thin lips at the end of each style. Caps. egg-shaped, hairy, ribbed. *Seeds* egg-shaped, flatted on one side. *Flowers* in long, upright, terminating bunches, fine yellow. *Borders of corn fields, hedges, shady places.* Bl. June, July.

Use. This plant has been principally regarded in the character of a mild *astringent* and corroborant; and it is recommended by many as a *deobstruent,* especially in *hepatic* and other *visceral obstructions.* Chomell relates two instances of its successful use in cases where the liver was much enlarged and indurated; *usuelles. t. ii. p.* 165. It has been used with advantage in *hæmorrhagic* affections; and to give *tone* to a lax and weak state of the solids. In *cutaneous* disorders, particularly in *scabies,* it is said to manifest great efficacy; *(Becker Diss. de Eupat, &c. Erf.* 1783,*)* for this purpose it was given infused with liquorice in the form of tea: but according to Alston it should be always exhibited in the state of powder.—*Woodville.* An infusion of the root is said to be made use of by the Canadians in burning *fevers,* with great success. An infusion of 6 oz. of the crown of the root, in one quart of boiling water, sweetened with honey, and drank, half a pint three times a day, is said by Dr. Hill, to be an effectual cure for the *jaundice;* he advises to begin with a vomit, afterwards to keep the bowels soluble, and to continue the medicine as long as any symptoms of the disease remain.—*Withering.* The leaves make a very pleasant tea, said to be serviceable in *hæmorrhagies* and in *obstructions of the liver* and *spleen.* They are sometimes used by the country people by way of cataplasms in fresh wounds and contusions.—*Lightfoot.* It has been esteemed a cephalic but now is not used.—*Hill.* The flowers fresh gathered smell like apricots.—Sheep and goats eat it; horses, cows, and swine refuse it.—*Linn.*

(To be continued.)

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

Gentlemen,

My friend, Dr. Rush, of Philadelphia, has, in his new edition of his Medical Inquiries and Observations, retracted his former opinion respecting the contagious nature of the yellow fever; and, being desirous of making this recantation as public as possible, he has requested me to obtain the insertion of the following extract from his Preface, in one of the periodical works of this country. If you will have the goodness to give it a place in your

your valuable Journal, my friend's object will be fully accomplished, and you will much oblige,

Yours, &c.

Liverpool, Feb. 10, 1806. L. J. JARDINE.

" In the fourth volume, the Reader will find a retrac-
" tion of the Author's former opinion of the yellow fever
" spreading by contagion. He begs forgiveness of the
" friends of science and humanity, if the publication of
" that opinion has had any influence in increasing the
" misery and mortality attendant upon that disease. In-
" deed, such is the pain he feels, in recollecting that he
" ever entertained or propagated it, that it will long, and
" perhaps always, deprive him of the pleasure he might
" otherwise have derived from a review of his attempts
" to fulfil the public duties of his profession."

CRITICAL ANALYSIS

OF THE

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

ON THE

DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF PHYSIC, SURGERY, AND MEDICAL PHILOSOPHY.

The Edinburgh Journal, No. 5.

" Article 1.—*Observations on the Formation of the Human Ovum.* By Mr. John Burns, Lecturer on Midwifery, in Glasgow.

There are several ways of treating a subject. Most writers think it proper to begin with finding fault with their predecessors. When this is done as an apology for appearing before the public, it is expected that the opinions of others should be faithfully stated, with the arguments against them; after which, the reader is prepared to attend to the new doctrine from a conviction of the necessity to correct the old.

" It has been the opinion," says Mr. Burns, " of all the anatomists who have written on the subject of the gravid uterus, that the vascular part of the ovum, or the membrana decidua, is originally formed from lymph or extravasated blood. But the formation of organized animal matter is accomplished by a process very

very different from the inspissation of lymph, or the production of new vessels through the medium of coagulated blood."

When we read of "all the anatomists who have written on the gravid uterus," we naturally turn our thoughts back as far as Aristotle, and wish to know what his opinion was on the subject. But when we afterwards meet with membrana decidua, it brings us on to the anatomist who first made use of that term, if he did not discover the membrane. Let us see how far Mr. Burns and his brother differ from those gentlemen, who are allowed to have thrown so much light on this important subject. After describing the increased vascular action of the uterus and its alteration in structure soon after impregnation, he proceeds,

"Next we find that, considerably within a month after impregnation, a number of vessels shoot out from that part of the membrane which lines the fundus uteri. These vessels have somewhat the appearance of the down which proceeds from putrid flesh. They are, however, of a different colour, thickly planted, and pretty closely united at their roots, but more separated at their extremities; so that, when the uterus is put in water, this part of it has a flocculent appearance. They never exceed the twelfth part of an inch in length. By degrees, still more of the uterine surface yields this vascular production, but it never is formed by the glandular part at the os uteri. This part secretes a jelly of a reddish colour, which is decomposed, and escapes very soon after death. The surface, however, immediately above the lacunæ yields a thin vascular production, which stretches across the uterus, and is evident as soon as the fundus has produced its down, whilst the intervening body of the uterus has as yet formed none.

"This vascular production forms the outer layer of the decidua. It has at first a striated appearance, from the direction of the vessels which go off at right angles to the uterine surface, which yields them. The striæ are alternately white and red, or black, owing to the empty arteries and distended veins; but if the uterus has been injected, then they are altogether coloured. This striated structure of the outer layer of the decidua seems, in the course of gestation, to be destroyed chiefly by pressure; for, by the end of the second or the beginning of the third month, it has more of a laminated appearance.

"I now go on to observe, that, almost immediately after this efflorescence of vessels proceeds from the uterus, (forming the outer layer of the decidua, or what may, at this period, be called the decidua striata) a second set of vessels is produced from the extremities of the first. These vessels are very different from the former, which are short, straight, and parallel to each other. These, on the contrary, are more extended, intermix and ramify together, so as to form an irregular tissue or sheet of vascular substance, the fibres or vessels of which assume a direction at right angles to the shag or primary vessels which formed them. This direction is very naturally given by the weight of the vessels themselves, which makes

makes them hang down, or point toward the os uteri. This production constitutes the internal layer of the decidua,—the decidua interna. It is much more irregular than the outer layer; many ragged flocculent processes hang down in the cavity of the uterus, and extend toward the cervix; so that this layer presently appears to consist of a number of torn floating membranes, like portions of spiders' web, hanging pendulous in the uterus; but nearer inspection shows that there has been no laceration, the margin being smooth and well defined. These I would call the processes of the decidua interna."

Now, we who have not sagacity enough to *determine* how the decidua is formed, and are indifferent whether one part of it is called membrana decidua, *reflexa* or *interna*, are a little at a loss to know whether Mr. Burns intends to instruct us by telling us that "a number of vessels shoot out" in certain directions, or that the "uterine surface *yields* this vascular production," or that it "is *formed*." Whether it is *formed*, or *yielded*, or *shot out*, it does not become us to explain, and we are ready to confess our ignorance. But from those who assure us that the formation of organized animal matter is accomplished by a process very different from [the *inspissation of lymph*, or] the production of new vessels through the medium of coagulated blood, we expected to learn something more than Mr. Burns has taught us. We do not want proofs of coagulated blood acquiring blood-vessels from neighbouring parts, nor are we certain that under certain circumstances the formation of vessels in the coagulum itself may not be within the resources of the constitution to preserve and restore itself. In cases of hæmorrhage and of parts divided by the interposition of coagulated blood, such appearances are discovered. In forming the capsules of abscesses, we find coagulable lymph organized, and in the exterior coat of hydatids, which enables them to adhere to solid parts; in worms enclosed in solid parts we find a kind of nidus formed of coagulated lymph. It is not our intention to consider the formation of the decidua as the mere consequence of such a process; it is enough that such a process is consistent with the operations of nature; when any thing more satisfactory is pointed out, we shall thankfully attend to it.

" Article 2.—*On the Degree to which Exercise should be carried in the Cure of some Varieties of Dyspepsia;* by A. B. Faulkner, M. D. London.

The author found in one case, which had proved particularly obstinate after every attention to diet, medicines, and exercise, that the latter was only useful when it produced perspiration, and was used whilst the stomach was nearly empty. This induced him to apply the same mode of treatment to several other cases, and his success did not disappoint him.

"Article

"Article 3. — *Letter on the Use of sulphurated Hydrogen in stomachic Complaints;* by Mr. William Forbes, Surgeon, Peterhead."

This paper contains some very useful observations in pointing out the advantages of a remedy but little attended to.

"Article 4.—*Account of Dr. Rousseau's Experiments on Cutaneous Absorption;* by J. G. Stock, M. D. Bristol."

In this paper Dr. Stock gives an abstract of Dr. Rousseau's inaugural Treatise, delivered at the University of Pensylvania in the year 1800. The following are the Doctor's opinions, which are afterwards, in part, supported by very well conducted experiments.

"Were the mercury absorbed in friction, it would certainly, after a long use, be found in some parts of the body; but I have never been able to discover any marks of the presence of mercury in the urine, milk, or other fluids of animals, upon whom it had not been spared."

"From several experiments, which are not yet sufficient to enable me to say any thing positive upon this subject, I am induced to believe, that mercury being a substance volatile enough to be capable of rising and diffusing emanations by a moderate degree of heat, (as has been proved by Mr. Achard's experiments,*) it may, with the assistance of the heat of the body of those using the frictions, be raised in very minute particles, as musk, camphor, spirit of turpentine, garlic, and others, and absorbed in the same manner as these volatile substances are. May it not be supposed also, that, during the frictions, some of the mercury is, by the action of the air, assisted by the heat of the body, oxyded, that it afterwards parts by degrees with its oxygen, which carries along with it to the lungs (which, I am to prove, are the organs performing absorption) some parts of the mercury, which is with difficulty separated from it? †

"He goes on to observe, that, 'From all the facts and observations

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"* This gentleman, having left a dish containing twenty pounds of mercury over a furnace which was daily heated, after some days experienced a salivation, as did two other persons who had not quitted the room. This heat he estimates to be about 72° of Fahrenheit.—*Journal de Physique, Octobre*, 1782.

"One of the Professors of this University (Pennsylvania) experienced a similar effect in his own person, in consequence of being repeatedly in a close room with a patient under a profuse salivation from mercurial frictions. And two others have noticed a similar effect to have been produced upon persons who resided in a ward in the Pennsylvania Hospital, where mercurial friction was administered to several patients.

"† Oxygenous gas, obtained from the mercurial oxides, almost always holds a small quantity of mercury in solution. I have been a witness to its having produced a speedy salivation on two persons who used it for disorders of the lungs.—*Chaptal's Chemistry.*

ations that he has been able to collect from others, as well as from his own observations and inquiries, he had never been able to determine the absorption of any substance by the lymphatics; on the contrary, that every experiment which he had made, with the view to come at such discovery, had convinced him that the lungs are the only organs by which absorption is performed. He admits that various active substances may be introduced *under* the cuticle; but this, he says, "cannot certainly be called absorption. In such cases the virus is carried on by the circulating fluid with which it has been mixed. Anatomists dissect putrid bodies with perfect safety, and no noxious matter is absorbed by their hands, as long as the cuticle is not injured. Would not surgeons be exposed every day to the most dangerous consequences, if the matter of venereal and gangrenous ulcers could be absorbed by the entire skin? Even the venom of the viper may be laid upon the skin without any accident ensuing."

Dr. R's experiments were confined to turpentine. By exposing his mouth or nose for ever so short a time, he always produced the violaceous smell in his urine, but if he made a communication between the organs of respiration and the open air, whilst every part of the external skin was exposed to the effluvia, and even to the application of turpentine, no such consequence followed.

The experiments appear very satisfactory, and the inductions very rational, but some important facts seem to militate against the latter, or the author seems to wish to infer more from the former than is necessary. The manner in which mercury finds its way into the system we pretend not to ascertain; but it is certainly possible that a substance so infinitely divisable may be forced by friction through the pores of the skin and afterwards absorbed.

The author's analogy from animal poisons is unsatisfactory. Though the cuticle is for the most part a security against the poison of the viper, yet hitherto, we believe, few experiments have been made of friction in the manner mercury is applied. As to the morbid poisons, there is no doubt that both the venereal and variolous may produce their effect though the cuticle remains sound. Even that mild disease, the cow-pox, has been found to produce its proper irritation from friction, when no rupture of the cuticle has been suspected. We would not be thought to undervalue Dr. Rousseau's experiments on this account. Without doubt many substances are found to produce violent effects where the cuticle is broken, which are innocent where that membrane is entire. The mercurial salts particularly seem to produce no effect on the sound skin; but many cases are on record, and we could from our own knowledge produce others, in which salivation has followed the application of them to open ulcers or slighter interruptions of the common covering. Perhaps a sight of the whole of Dr. R's paper may explain his inferences further; but at present they are not completely satisfactory to us.

" Article 5.—*Analysis of a Stearoid Tumour;* by JOHN BOSTOCK, M. D. Liverpool.

THIS is another instance of the great diligence of Dr. Bostock, in one of the most important subjects, the perfect investigation of which is absolutely necessary in our future progress towards rational physiology and pathology. We shall not undertake to shorten the paper, which, like every thing that comes from its author, contains nothing superfluous. Great as its value is, it can only serve as a record, which those who are engaged in similar enquiries will not fail to consult in its orignal form.

" Article 6.—*History of a Case of Diabetes Mellitus successfully treated;* by HENRY FRASER, M. D. London.

THIS case is not sufficiently uniform in its symptoms to ascertain its reality, nor does it appear that any analysis of the urine was undertaken. The paper contains some handsome compliments to Dr. Willan and the late Dr. Woodville. The last is considered as a tribute of gratitude from a pupil to his teacher.

" Article 7.—*An Account of a Fœtus found in the Abdomen of a Woman eighty-three Years of Age;* by J. GRIVEL, Accoucheur in the Hospital of Villeneuve at Dresden, as communicated in the following Letter to Dr. Pearson, Leicester Square.

" Sir,

" I take the liberty of addressing to you a few lines, to desire you to accept the two drawings which I have sent, done as faithfully as my poor talent in the art enables me. You must know that we are in no want of bodies at Dresden, having, besides those of the hospital, all those of murderers and suicides. We lately received the body of Maria Walther, born at Meissen, widow of a Prussian hussar, who had attended in several campaigns in the capacity of a sutler to Frederic II. King of Prussia's army. She has been kept in the Lazarus Hospital since 1794 through charity, on account of her great age only, being in perfect health, and having never complained of any pain in the belly. She talked of nothing but of the wars in her former days, and assisted as a nurse to the sick in the Lazarus Hospital till within two hours of her death. On opening her body, the young surgeon who was employed was surprised to find a child in an indurated state, and blended, as it were, with the intestines. It appeared as represented in the drawing, No. 1. A more distinct view appeared after washing the parts, and as represented in the drawing. No. 2. We consider this as a most rare case, the woman being *eighty-three years of age*, as was proved by an extract of her baptism. I wished much to have purchased for you the original; but I was unable, it being reserved for the cabinet of the Elector. I have the

the honour of recommending myself to your protection, and of being your very humble servant,

"J. Grivel.

"P. S. We have a girl (*une fille nine**) now in the Hospital, who is much deformed, and far advanced in pregnancy. Her pelvis is not two inches, English, wide. We shall be obliged to perform the Cæsarian operation. This is the second of this description which we have had at the Hospital within these eighteen months.

"*Dresden, June 28, 1805.*"

Remarks by Dr. Pearson.

"1. Although the above statement by no means contains a relation of many particulars, which a well-informed person would desire, and although, from the want of a more full account, it will be impossible to make many inferences, which otherwise could have been established, there is no just reason to question the fact that a fœtus was found in the abdomen as described.

"2. I have heard, within the last six months, of three similar cases, viz. one which fell under the observation of a very experienced physician of the first reputation in Gloucestershire. I have been favoured with a sight of the drawings of this case, and I know it is destined for publication: it will, there is no doubt, be given very correctly, and will contain a minute history of all the particulars belonging to so extraordinary an occurrence. A second instance of the same sort fell under the observation of a physician at Glasgow; and, as I was informed by a young physician, my pupil, in Edinburgh, it was so similar to the Gloucestershire case, that, while I was relating it in a lecture the last winter, he supposed it was the same as that with which he was acquainted at Glasgow. A third instance was communicated to me yesterday at Woolwich by Dr. Rollo: it occurred in Ireland, of which an account had been seen a few days ago in a letter.

"3. Even if I had leisure, I should not be disposed to make a number of remarks, and endeavour to explain the nature of these occurrences, there being so many professional men better qualified.

"* *Nine* is not a classical word in the French language, in which the letter was written, but we understand it to be a cant term used in some hospitals on the Continent, for those cases of deformity in the female, in which parturition must be difficult, if not impossible.—*Editors.*"

As this is a matter of some importance, we recommend a more particular enquiry into the true import of the word, in which we shall not fail to add our diligence. At present we only take the liberty to remark, that *naine* is a legitimate word in French, meaning only a female dwarf, and as it is applied according to the idiom of the language to both sexes, cannot refer to parturition. It is possible, though not likely, that the uncertainty of manuscript reading may have caused this doubt; but whether this is the case or not, most English readers will wish to be satisfied on the subject.

qualified. However, one question I shall venture to propose, in order to obtain from others a satisfactory explanation. What are the powers or circumstances which prevent the fœtus from undergoing the compositions and decompositions usual in the process of putrefaction? Three different reasons may be assigned.

"1. That the fœtus is in a dead state; but the exclusion of air containing oxyen gas is the circumstance which prevents putrefaction.

"2. That the fœtus is in a dead state; but the agency of living surfaces in contact with it, counteracts the putrefactive process.

"3. That the vitality of the fœtus is not extinguished, although the mode of agency of the principle of life is different from what is usual.

"The first supposition does not appear to me satisfactory, because air certainly does permeate through every part of the animal economy; and it is common for dead animal matter to become putrid in many cavities to which air has not a more free access than into the cavity of the abdomen. Also out of the animal body, we know that animal fluids, kept in glass vessels quite full, and hermetically sealed, afford new compositions by the play of chemical attraction.

"The second supposition may, perhaps, be thought not altogether improbable, being supported by analogy. So the fluid in dropsies, and in many other diseases, remains for months, and even years, in cavities, without alteration in its composition, seemingly owing to its being in contact with living matter. Generally, however, when lifeless animal matter is exposed to living surfaces, and confined so as to be much excluded from the air, it is either absorbed, or it excites the formation of pus, or it putrefies. The late Mr. Pierce Smith, my most ingenious pupil, wrote a paper, which was read at the Royal Society about the year 1795, containing many experiments to show, that when flesh of various sorts was inserted into the cavities of wounds purposely inflicted, it was absorbed, if in a certain quantity, and if the animal was in vigorous health; but if the quantity was too great, then purulent matter was formed, and, in some cases, the flesh introduced became putrid.

"The third supposition, viz. that vitality remains, appears most reasonable, because certain actions go on, which produce changes only known in living bodies; such as the ossification of a great part of the fœtus; the process of induration; the thickening of parts, and perhaps adhesion, from the communication of new vessels between the confined extraneous body, and the cavity in which it is contained."

We heartily agree with Dr. Pearson in the probability of his correspondent's case. By the questions proposed, "what are the powers or circumstances which prevent the fœtus from undergoing the compositions and decompositions usual in the process of putrefaction?" We apprehend our author means only to enquire

what

what laws have hitherto been discovered in dead or living animal matter, which may account for the fœtus continuing so long within the cavity of the abdomen, without putrefaction? We are quite as ready as he is to give up his first proposition, though we should have wished to be informed further of the permeability of all the living parts of the animal economy to air in an elastic state, if such is the meaning of our author, and also of those cavities in which it is common for dead animal matter to become putrid?

The second proposition, like many others, which are gradually becoming current without any recollection of the source from which we derive it, was long since taught by Mr. Hunter; nor do we find it contradicted by the experiments of Dr. Pearson's ingenious pupil. That animal matter, when inserted in sections made thro' the integuments, and parts below, of living animals, should be followed by such consequences, is perfectly analagous to all that is to be met with in Mr. Hunter's treatise on the blood and inflammation. That it should be absorbed, as extraneous, is a part of his doctrine of the absorption of solid parts; that it should stimulate under other circumstances to suppuration, is only a part of what we there meet with, as the means of removing extraneous bodies. If in some instances putrefaction followed, this might easily be accounted for by the manner which the foreign flesh was introduced, and the uncertainty whether it was instantly closed by the adhesive inflammation taking place in the living animal.

Dr. Pearson's last supposition, though seemingly supported by something like a climax, is to us unintelligible. Can the author mean, that a fœtus, which could not have remained in the abdomen according to the common laws of the human functions much less than forty years, still retained its life? As to the actions alluded to, they seem perfectly analogous to what are observed under other circumstances. For a time, part of the dead fœtus would be absorbed by the vessels of the mother in contact with it; and if this process ceased, what was left might be incased, and its interstitial substance filled with calculous matter, as we find happens to other extraneous bodies. The following Paper shows that this process may be carried so far, as even to affect the living part in which this altered action is set up.

" Article 8.—*Remarkable Case of an Ossified Fœtus and Uterus in a Woman sixty years of age.* By John Caldwell, M. D. Ireland, Londonderry."

This case was attended with a number of interesting particulars. The subject had many symptoms of labour under which she died. The following is the account of the dissection.

" She died about eight next morning, after a night apparently easy, and sleep frequently repeated. Her body being opened by Mr. School, jun. her intestines were, in some places, marked with black spots of incipient mortification, dilated with flatulency. Her

Her liver was extremely small, but not diseased. The uterine tumour was large and irregular, with its small end to the neck of the uterus. It was evidently a child ossified, and connected with the uterus, the greater part of which was ossified. The head, with the face well marked, and one arm coiled, but obviously perceptible, formed the larger end of the tumour felt above the pelvis; and the part opened by scissars, and considered the head, during the attempts to deliver, was the trunk of the body, and lower extremities compressed. The whole tumour resembled a deformed bust, having the head, neck, and trunk. There was no unnatural adhesion of the uterus, by previous inflammation, to the surrounding parts of the pelvis or abdomen. The child and uterus, ossified together, were sent to Dr. Clarke, professor of midwifery in Dublin."

" Article 9. *Essay on Erythema Mercuriale, or that Eruption which sometimes occurs from the Use of Mercury.* By John Mac Mullin, M. D."

We had prepared a long critique on this paper, but on re-considering the subject, shall content ourselves with announcing the article, observing only, that too much attention cannot be paid to every symptom which occurs under the exhibition of so important a remedy as mercury.

" Article 10. *Second Essay on the Analysis of Animal Fluids.* By John Bostock, M. D. Liverpool."

In this valuable paper the ingenious author pursues his former enquiry with the same diligence and acumen as before. Having ascertained the charcters of albumen, jelly, and mucus, and pointed out the tests by which they may be ascertained with ease and precision; his object is now to propose a method of analysis of the compound fluids, of which these substances form a principal part.

Though heat was found an accurate test of the presence of albumen, yet it afforded no means of separating it from water, or any other substance. The principal test employed was oxymuriate of mercury, by which he was enabled so ascertain the quantity of albumen contained in any compound animal fluid.

The uncoagulable part of the albumen ovi, was found generally to consist of about $\frac{1}{4}$ part of the weight of the solid contents. A solution of this substance in 100 times its weight of water, was only affected by aqua lithargyri acetati, a single drop of which, produced a copious precipitate, which, from the effects of evaporation, appeared to be pure mucus.

The author further remarks, that in all his experiments on albumen, he observed a remarkable backwardness in this substance to putrefy, and when that process had taken place, the odour emitted resembled pus; whereas, the putrid mucilage discharged its usual nauseous smell.

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The saline ingredients were so minute, that the author, with his usual candour, acknowledges himself unable to determine their nature.

The method of ascertaining the quantity of jelly in any compound fluid was found more easy. By mixing a solution of isinglass with a certain quantity of infusion of galls of a determined strength, the comparative quantity of the two may be ascertained from the precipitate.

In determining the proportion of mucus, in any given substance, Dr. B. found so many difficulties, that he was, at last, under the necessity of ascertaining the quantity of albumen and jelly, and of considering the remainder as mucus. But as some portion of salts always exists in all animal matter, further elucidation is, of course, requisite.

Having made this progress in the three most common components of the fluid parts of animal matter, our author's next object was to apply this analysis of animal fluids to the actual examination of some substances. His first set of experiments was on the fluid discharged from a tumour forming the disease usually called Spina Bifida, which he found to consist of

" Water - - -	97	8	
Muriate of soda	1	0	
Albumen - - -	0	5	
Mucus - - -	0	5	These proportions are in some measure conjectural
Jelly - - - -	0	2	
Lime - - - -			A very minute quantity
	100	0	

The next analysis was on the liquor pericardii, which was reduced to the following substances.

" Water - - -	92	0	
Albumen - -	5	5	
Mucus - - -	2	0	The proportion of these substances is somewhat conjectural
Muriate of soda	0	5	
	100	0	

The following is Dr. Bostock's account of his analysis of saliva, and his recapitulation of what has been done by others.

" The next analysis that I attempted was that of the saliva; this fluid, in its natural state, is mixed with such variable proportions of water, that it is almost impossible to fix any standard which can be considered even as the average quantity. It is, however, convenient, in observing the effects of reagents upon it, to have it in a more diluted state than it usually occurs; and I accordingly united it by rubbing it in a mortar, with a quantity of distilled water, until, by evaporation, 100 grains of the mixture were found to contain two grains of solid residuum. Upon this mixture the following experiments were performed.

" 1. The fluid was still opake, and there was an appearance as if some flocculent matter were suspended in it.

" 2. No effect seemed to be produced by exposing it to the boiling temperature.

" 3. When the oxymuriate of mercury was added, no immediate visible effect was produced; but, after some hours, a light flocculent coagulum separated and fell to the bottom, leaving the fluid nearly transparent.

" 4. A portion of the fluid, left for a few days without addition, gradually suffered a quantity of matter to separate from it, as in No. 3; but the separation was less complete, and it was much longer in taking place.

" 5. A quantity of the fluid being passed through a filter of bibulous paper, was rendered perfectly transparent.

" 6. The oxymuriate of mercury being added to a quantity of No. 5, a very slight precipitate only was produced after some time.

" 7. The addition of the infusion of galls to No. 1, caused a precipitation of white flakes; but, after filtration, the galls produced no effect.

" 8. The filtered fluid, No. 5, produced a copious precipitate with the aqua lithargyri acetati.

" 9. It also produced a considerable precipitate with the nitromuriate of tin.

" 10. And with the nitrate of silver.

" 11. Equal weights of the fluid, before and after filtration, were separately evaporated, and the amount of the residuum being ascertained, the quantities left were to each other nearly as 12 to 8.

" 12. The diluted saliva, both before and after filtration, slightly reddened a paper stained with litmus.

" From these experiments we may draw the following conclusions. From No. 3, it would seem that the fluid contains albumen; but it appears from Nos, 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6, that the albumen is not soluble in water, but in that state in which it is found after coagulation. From this we learn, that it constitutes only 0.8 of a grain in 100 grains of the fluid. From No. 7, we learn that there is no jelly; from 8, 9, and 10, that there is a quantity of mucus and muriate of soda; and, from comparing these with each other, we are led to conclude, that the last substance exists only in small quantity."

This Number contains, as the first article of Medical Biography, an account of the life and writings of the late Dr. Currie, of Liverpool. We conceived there could be only one opinion of this truly respectable and amiable character, which made us feel the more when we met with the following passages.

" The reports on the effects of cold water, as a remedy in fever, were written to recommend a practice, of which Dr. Currie may in strict justice be considered as the author. It is true, that in

in the records of the ancients, and in the writings of the moderns, we occasionally meet with an account of this practice. But those who employed it did so empirically, or without any fixed principles. It remained for Dr. Currie to ascertain its mode of action, to trace its consequences, and to lay down rules for its application. This he has effected in the most masterly manner. Had Currie not lived, or had he forborne to write, this gigantic remedy might still have lurked in obscurity, or might have been productive of infinite mischief, in place of universal advantage. At present it is morally impossible that any one who has read the medical reports can undesignedly misapply this remedy.

"To arrest the progress of fever, to circumscribe the range of death, to exterminate disease, and to nip contagion in the bud, though present to our dreams of felicity, would seem denied to our waking hopes. As far, however, as these objects will admit of attainment, we may expect them from the remedy which Dr. Currie has recommended to our notice. He has taught us to divest the jail-fever, the small-pox, and the scarlet-fever, of most of their terrors."

No man can be more grateful for the series of experiments contained in the reports than ourselves. But we do not on that account, wish to undervalue the labours of others; and if the formidable diseases above alluded, have lost most of their terrors, we suspect, it can only be among those who see the least of them.

A fourth paper of THE ENQUIRER follows; on the chief diagnostic symptoms of hydrocephalus internus, and of the diseases which arise from worms in the intestinal canal.

Among the medical intelligence is the second report of the board of health.—Some doubts relative to Pacchioni's discovery. —Premiums proposed by the University of Wilna, relative to diabetes, and the probability of saccharine secretions in various parts of animals and plants.

A Reply to the Anti-vaccinists. By JAMES MOORE, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, in London, 8vo.: London, 1806.

THIS is one of the liveliest, and at the same time, best arranged pamphlets that we have met with on the late controversy. It embraces the question historically, scientifically, and practically; dwells with minuteness, but without prolixity, on every part, and shews with great clearness, the favourable result that must follow such an inquiry into this valuable discovery. From this account our readers will readily perceive the impossibility of abridging such a performance, we shall therefore only offer a few extracts, to show that we have not overvalued the whole. As members of the faculty, we cannot but transcribe the introductory compliment, in which the fraternity is so handsomely treated.

"Could any class of human beings live in peace, it might be expected of those brought up to the Church and to Medicine.

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But ecclesiastics can seldom instil into mankind the doctrine of love to each other, without mutual rancour; and physicians as rarely inculcate acts of humanity, without snarling at their brethren. It is strange, yet true, that seamen and soldiers, whose duty it is to wound and destroy, are hardly more given to quarrel, than churchmen and physicians, whose avocation it is to relieve and to save. That vaccination should occasion contention, was a thing of course; but this has been carried to unexpected lengths; for both those who approve, and those who disapprove of vaccination, have accused each other of murdering their patients. It is to be regretted that they are not more prudent, for the public may give implicit credit to both.

"It must be owned indeed, that on this occasion, there was superadded to the general tendency of doctors to differ, a particular motive which rarely fails of having that effect upon all mankind. Small-pox was the source of no inconsiderable portion of the income of every medical practitioner; in so much that neither physicians nor surgeons would abandon this disease to the management of the other. The physician claimed it as a contagious fever, and therefore a medical case; but as the surgeon was the inoculator, he did not choose to relinquish the profits of the subsequent treatment. While each was eager for the whole, it was hardly to be expected, that a plan to take it from both, would be kindly received by either.

"Jenner's discovery was a touchstone, to detect what proportion of selfishness alloyed the human heart. It was calculated to make known, whether the scenes of misery, which medical men are compelled to witness, blunt their feelings. The result has certainly reflected distinguished honour on the faculty; for the plan to exterminate the small-pox, has been zealously adopted by the medical men of every part of the world which it has reached. There are, however, and I acknowledge it with reluctance; a few practitioners, who must be excluded from participating in the praise thus acquired; but it would be unjust to censure them, merely for opposing vaccination. It is more liberal to believe that their opposition is founded upon a conviction of its inefficacy.

"A difference of opinion is so natural, that the discovery had hardly been promulgated, when a controversy arose between those who admired it. Some of Dr. Jenner's followers attempted to pilfer the laurel crown which he had gained. They insinuated, that though he had accidentally fallen upon the discovery, they were alone capable of bringing it to perfection. They pretended to have studied the subject more profoundly, and to understand it better. Some curious experiments were then made public, shewing the effects of inoculating children both with small-pox matter and the vaccine fluid, under a variety of circumstances; the two were even mixed together, and this mixture was made use of for inoculation. All this is thought extremely innocent by some philosophers; but had any mischief ensued, it may be presumed that the

the parents of the children upon whom these experiments were made, would have thought otherwise; and might have been tempted to take disagreeable and even illegal steps to revenge themselves. Luckily, nothing serious ensued, except that it was then asserted, that vaccine pustules were a common occurrence, and long lists of cases were published where this eruption had taken place.

"The sagacious discoverer had been too attentive to the phenomena of the disease to deserve being suspected of overlooking so obvious a circumstance. He maintained with modesty, that pustular eruptions had never occurred to his patients; and he was persuaded that some mistake had been committed; and that perhaps the vaccine fluid employed was not of a proper kind.

"This suggestion gave great offence to those who had published pustular cases; they were alarmed lest their skill should be questioned and their practice diminished. From interested friends they became insidious foes; and even endeavoured to frustrate the generous disposition of Parliament in his favour.

"No sooner had abuse commenced than Dr. Jenner with propriety withdrew from the contest. But others warmly espoused his cause. The newspapers became infected with virulent paragraphs; an eruption of confluent pamphlets broke out; inflammatory duodecimos succeeded, and swelling octavos full of matter burst from the press. Many ingenious hypotheses were formed to account for the eruptions. Some supposed they were small-pox, others cow-pox, and a third party a hybrid disease. A few minute philosophers, in order to sift this business to the bottom, determined to examine the matter of the pustules by the solar microscope, and by the nicest chemical tests. But in the mean time, Dr. Jenner's rules for inoculation were silently put in practice; upon which the eruptions suddenly vanished, and no pus could be found to make experiments with.

"Jenner never took advantage of this conclusion to triumph over his adversaries. The source of their error is now pretty well understood, and he allowed this ridiculous dispute to die away. Such was the issue of the teazing controversy betwixt the friends of vaccination; but we must now attend to a more vehement one with its opponents."

We have offered this as a specimen of the author's lively manner of writing, and also to correct an incaccuracy, which though apparently trifling, has, like every other error, been productive of inconveniences. Though the pustules above alluded to, were certainly not vaccine, yet the most accurate observers have found vaccination occasionally attended with secondary eruptions. They are indeed, such as cannot be mistaken for variolous, being different in their form, in their contents, in the time of their appearance, and in not communicating any infection by effluvia. Dr. Jenner, with his usual candour, admits them, and has by inoculating from them, produced the genuine disease.

 We

We thought it right to mention thus much, not that it at all detracts from Dr. Jenner's moderation as commended by Mr. Moore, but because in this, and in all other cases, we conceive truth the first object. Indeed, when we consider the analogy of every other morbid poison with which we are acquainted, it would be a strange peculiarity if this alone should be invariably free from any secondary eruptions. At the same time it may be right to add, that such secondary vesicles are very rare, and when they do appear are unattended with fever, or any other inconvenience.

We shall conclude this article with remarking, that we have perused the whole with much pleasure, and without meeting with any thing objectionable, excepting what we have noticed above. We recommend it as the fittest work on the subject for the higher classes, whilst Dr. Adams's, as we before remarked, is best calculated for those who have fewer advantages of education.

Letters to Dr. Rowley, on his late Pamphlet, entitled 'Cow-pox Inoculation, no Security against Small-pox Infection.' By ACULEUS. Octavo, pp. 60. London, 1805.

THIS little pamphlet consists of a set of smart letters to Dr. Rowley, with an appendix, in which some well authenticated facts are related.

This is certainly the proper way to answer the absurdities contained in Dr. Rowley's pamphlet. There are performances on which cool reasoning is lost, because they are neither founded on facts, nor supported by any just inferences, even from the statement of the author himself. In these cases, as there is nothing to refute, Horace's adage is very just:

" Ridiculum acri
" Rectius et melius plerumque secat res."

But as the force of wit is much weakened if the whole of the attendant circumstances are not aptly introduced, we shall transcribe an entire letter, as a specimen of the rest. The title page being embellished with a wooden cut of the ox-faced boy, and a cow grazing behind him, we have selected Letter X. to which the subject refers.

" *Most Learned Sir,*

" Had Swedenborg possessed *your* talent for investigating truth, and explaining theological mysteries, the world would have been *illuminated* indeed! *He* pretended to be favoured with celestial visions for the benefit of his fellow-creatures, and, with the dull reasoning of a mathematician, laboured, by voluminous writings, to demonstrate, that his doctrines were conformable to Scripture, and the character of the Supreme Being as a good and wise father of his children; but you, more able Sir, have developed, in *three* lines of text, and *six* of *note*, a mystery hid from the foundation of the world! Your own native genius, and not any borrowed light

light from the Angelic Heaven, directs your researches; and, instead of "a *raving mad follower*" of the Swedish divine, you stand confessed as the polar-star of divinity. *You* boast an intimate knowledge of the decrees of Heaven, and shew what is ordained for the visitation of man, and what he has brought upon himself by his presumption. You, sir, demonstrate, *without argument*, the right of inoculation for the small-pox, and clearly prove, *in the same manner*, that to inoculate for the cow-pock, or even the chicken-pox, is an impious and flagrant "violation of our *most holy religion:*" for, who can be so blind as not to see, that whether a man "lies with a beast, and contaminates the *form of the Creator* with the brute creation;" or, whether he dips his lancet in the pellucid virus on a milk-maid's hand, and thus raises a vesicle on the arm of his child; he is alike guilty of *bestiality;* alike obnoxious to the divine law, and all the penalties of human justice?—Thus are the Vaccinators convicted, not only of "a breach of the sixth commandment," as noticed in my former letter; but of actual intercourse with the brute creation!! "The contemplative and *learned* ministers of the Gospel," whom you piously call upon to corroborate your doctrine, cannot fail to perceive, that, altho' *small-pox* inoculation is perfectly allowable to man as a free, rational, and accountable agent; and that all the opposition once made to the practice, as "*wresting out of the hands of the Almighty the divine dispensations of his Providence,*" arose from gross ignorance and barbarous, absurd superstition; yet, that this very same objection, when brought against the *cow-pock*, is perfectly rational, religious, and conclusive.—What a degeneracy shall we witness in the next generation, contaminated, deformed, and *brutalized by* "*millions* over the whole face of the earth!" what signal punishment awaits "presumptuous man," for this "*daring violation of our most Holy Religion!!*" If, according to LORD MONBODDO, men once resembled the brute creation by having TAILS; may we not, according to Dr. ROWLEY, expect to find them in turn, graced with HORNS? Will not our grand-sons and grand-daughters forget the human accent, and low responsive to the grazing herds; or, leaving their mother's breast, associate with the beasts of the field? shall we not behold, in addition to the many sheep-faced boys who now trudge daily to school, and the hoggish boors who break the clod, a future race, of mungrel aspect and intellect, more resembling CALVES than human beings; will not the natural consequence be, that, instead of our children sending their sons to study "*Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology,* and *Therapeutics,*" we shall see them quartered for sale on the butchers' shambles? Dreadful thought! yet consequences no less shocking are to be expected, if "*Mankind*" continue, in despite of every friendly and *disinterested* admonition, in the "beastly" practice of Vaccination. Be it so.—You, sir, are clear in the sight of God and man;—*your* hands are washed in innocency;—and when divine justice shall sweep with the besom of destruction the impious herd of

 vaccinists

vaccinists from the face of the earth, or visit a guilty and polluted land with universal dissolution; *you* at least will escape "unhurt amidst the war of elements, the wreck of matter, and the crush of worlds!"

"I turn from this awful scene, to contemplate the noble candour with which, notwithstanding their crimes, you treat the Vaccinators, in acknowledging their claims to superiority, by admiting their strongest argument in favour of the new practice: but lest this might appear to argue an inconsistency on your part, I shall devote my next letter to a proper explanation of this subject; and reconcile this apparent contradiction, by shewing the real motive which leads to such candour; and I hope to be able fully to prove, that this part of your Treatise is in exact conformity to your main design, namely, the promotion of your "*new, improved, refined, and successful mode of small-pox inoculation.*"

Observations on Vaccine Inoculation, tending to confute the Opinions of Dr. Rowley and others. By HENRY FRASER, M. D. &c.

THIS is a light performance, neatly written, and containing some handsome compliments to the late Dr. Woodville and to Dr. Jenner. The principal novelty in it is, that the author conceives he has refuted the opinion of the origin of the cow-pox from the grease of the horse. We believe at the time this pamphlet was written, the last volume of Memoirs of the Medical Society was not published. In our next number we shall offer that volume to the notice of our readers.

Remarks on the Report of M. Chaptal (late Minister of the Interior) to the Consuls or former Government of France; with an Examination of the Claim of M. Guiton de Morveau to the Discovery of the Power of the Mineral Acid Gases on Contagion; in a Letter addressed to William Wilberforce, Esq. M. P. &c. By JAMES CARMICHAEL SMITH, M. D. &c. Octavo. London, 1805.

THERE cannot be a more important subject in Medicine, than the means of purifying infected apartments. The application of sulphuric acid has been known from an earlier period than can be ascertained. But to use this effectually, the chamber must be unihabited as the fumes of that mineral are found fatal to all animals.

It is well known that Dr. Carmichael Smith substituted the fumes of nitrous acid, and so much to the satisfaction of a Committee of the House of Commons, as to receive a reward of five thousand pounds for his discovery.

M. Chaptal disputes the honour of the invention; but by the pamphlet before us, it is evident that his arguments and statements of facts, only go to prove, that M. Morveau had used the muriatic acid

acid for the same purposes for which Dr. C. Smith applied the nitrous.

Now it is admitted that a powerful evolution of the muriatic acid is painful and dangerous, particularly to those in reduced health, by the effect it has on the lungs; and if the evolution is sufficiently sudden and considerable, that the consequence may be fatal.

We pretend not to ascertain whether nitrous acid has all the advantages ascribed to it, as this has been disputed by some who have had large opportunities of knowing its effects. However, the weight of evidence appears in its favour; and to the discovery of its safe exhibition in inhabited chambers, we think there cannot be a doubt that Dr. Smith has a fair title.

An Essay on the Diseases incident to Indian Seamen or Lascars on long Voyages. By WILLIAM HUNTER, A. M. Member of the Asiatic Society of Calcutta, Foreign Member of the Medical Society of London and Paris, and Surgeon to the Company's Marine. Folio, 1804, Calcutta, printed at the Company's press.

THIS is a valuable compilation on a subject of great importance. The author informs us, that being called upon in the execution of his duty as marine surgeon to examine into the cause of an unusual mortality among the native crews of some of the country ships which returned from England in the year 1801, the singularity of the disease, together with its rapid and fatal progress, arrested his attention, and he resolved to lose no opportunity of collecting further information on the subject. In the course of this inquiry, he met with other varieties of disease which he here proceeds to enumerate, with such remarks as the materials in his possession enable him to offer. Those materials principally consist of reports made to the Board of Trade by the master-attendant, and marine-surgeon, or assistant surgeon in charge of the marine.

These various diseases are particularized with some suitable practical remarks on their causes, and the mode of treating and preventing them. On the last the author is most particular, referring for the more minute description and history of the diseases, to the appendices, which consist principally of reports from different master's attendants. Several useful observations are added, and such copious references to the various authors who have written on the diseases, or those which are most analogous to them, as very much to enhance the value of the work.

Vaccinæ

Vaccinæ Vindicia ; or, a Vindication of the Cow-pox : containing a Refutation of the Cases, and Reasonings on the same, in Dr. Rowley's late extraordinary Pamphlet against Vaccination, in a Letter to Dr. Moseley. By ROBERT JOHN THORNTON, M.D. 8vo. London, 1806.

THIS is only the first part of Dr. Thornton's Answer to Dr. Rowley. After a Dedication to the Jennerian Society, the author announces his intentions with the following letter :

" SIR,

" I HAD hoped my labours were ended, having *proved*, as I thought, the *superior advantages* of the COW-POX, over the SMALL-POX, INOCULATION ; when I found to my great astonishment, that two physicians of no small eminence in the profession, who had before often enlightened mankind, and evinced great erudition, and deep practical skill with regard to the science of medicine, entertained sentiments diametrically opposite to these, and tried to support them by a number of *Facts*.—I had indeed looked upon your first sentiments as the product of a *playful* hour, " serious trifling," as you were pleased to call them ; but when you again appear in print in 1805, together with Dr. Rowley in the same year, both whose works run through two editions, I see with considerable pain and anxiety, that certain men, however wise in other respects, may, upon *one subject*, display a total want of that clearness of mind and judgment so conspicuous on other occasions ; I was about to say that *prejudice* may have so warped the understanding, that we do not indeed recognize the same individuals.

" Dr. Rowley has declared his work to be " a solemn appeal, not to the passions of mankind, but to the reason and judgment of all who are capable of deep reflection ; and, it is hoped, the *well-authenticated irrefutable facts* produced, will recieve a cool dispassionate consideration."

" In a work, where fair discusscon should be admitted, and in which strict truth should be the object of free inquiry, it is absolutely necessary to establish *facts* to prevent controversy."

" It is sincerely wished, that the most severe investigations on cow and small-pox inoculation, may be liberally instituted by all those who are *disinterested*, not by the *ex parte* accounts of vaccinators, and all idle disputation or altercation be suspended ; for no *arguments* nor *controversy*, however artfully contrived, however ingeniously constructed, can overturn *visible* and *indubitable facts*."

" Finally, *truth* is the object of this inquiry ; to sacred *truth* alone should contending parties make their appeal, and submissively abide by her decision."

" Having invited an examination into " *facts*," which I agree with Dr. Rowley can alone ultimately establish the propositions on either side, I hope in this arduous investigation I shall not lose the liberality and candour of a *gentleman*. To abuse in *retaliation* would

would be a sign of weakness on our part, and every voice during such altercation would be crying out to come to *proofs*.

"To be brief, I here solemnly protest I have no other motive but the *public good*, and very reluctantly undertook to expose the errors Dr. Rowley, yourself, and a few others have been under, with regard to vaccination."

This Part contains many pointed observations, and shows how little attention Dr. Rowley paid to accuracy in collecting what he calls facts. When the whole appears before us we shall be more minute in our observations. In the next Part, which is to appear in March, we trust the author will correct an error in the names of the Medical Council of the Jennerian Society. Though there is no doubt, that the Gentlemen of the former Council, hold similar opinions with the present, on the subject of vaccination, yet, a reference to our last Number, would have enabled Dr. T. to have given the signatures to the Report with accuracy.

Report of Diseases in the public and private Practice of one of the Physicians of the Finsbury Dispensary, from the 20th of January to the 20th of February.

Dyspepsia	11	Podagra	1
Asthenia Senilis	2	Epilepsia	3
Hypochondriasis	5	Hepatitis Chronica	6
Chlorosis	11	Pneumatosis	4
Menorrhagia	3	Nephritis calculosa	2
Fluor Albus	5	Hæmorrhois	1
Hæmoptysis	1	Dysenteria	2
Phthisis Pulmonalis	3	Diarrhœa	5
Peripneumonia Notha	5	Rubeola	8
Hydrops Pectoris	1	Morbi Infantiles	17
Rheumatismus	7	Morbi Cutanei	15

In the above list no individual disease appears particularly prominent. There has of late been no epidemic. One of the cases of dyspepsia noticed in the catalogue might be accounted for from the decayed condition of the teeth, by which they were rendered unequal to the due performance of their appropriate office.

When it is considered how much health and life itself depend upon the perfect assimilation or *incorporation* of the food—that such an assimilation must be preceded by an adequate digestion.—and that this latter process cannot be well effected without a previous and sufficient mastication,

cation, the function of the teeth will appear to approach in dignity and consequence to that of the most important viscera. The wanton and unnecessary extraction of a tooth ought to be avoided, not on account merely of the momentary pain of the operation, or of the appearance of dilapidation which it gives to the face, but because it involves the loss of one of the instruments most essentially and intimately connected with the preservation of vigour and the continuance of vitality.

By medical inquirers who have taken pains to search into this particular subject, it has been remarked, that one of the circumstances that have almost invariably attended among the phenomena of old-age, is the unimpaired integrity of the teeth. Their decay, which for the most part accompanies, cannot fail likewise to contribute to and accelerate that gradual reduction of substance and of strength which so uniformly characterizes the more advanced stages of our existence.

It is of high moment that parents and others connected with the superintendance of persons in very early life, should sufficiently attend to and feel the importance of these remarks.

It ought not to be overlooked, that while the state of the teeth produces an effect on the stomach, the diseased condition of the latter is not unfrequently communicated to the former.

One of the cases of typhus fever alluded to in the catalogue is alarming, and will not improbably prove fatal, in consequence of being complicated with a consumptive affection. The corroborating and stimulating remedies necessary for the one, being directy calculated to aggravate the symptoms and increase the danger of the other.*

A person has recently been attended by the writer of this article, who died of a fairly exhausted excitability. It is remarkable that his wife, who had been in that relation for nearly fifty years, survived her intimate associate only a few weeks, without any apparent or assignable cause

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* The Parisian practice, which the Reporter had an opportunity, some years ago, of observing at the Hotel-Dieu, in febrile complaints, would not interfere with an inflammatory or tubercular affection of the lungs. It consisted principallly of bleeding, ptisans, and *du vin*, which last was in fact wine only to the *eye*. It was weaker than our small-beer, and was singularly well calculated to induce that degree of diarrhœa which ought to be particularly guarded against in fevers of extreme debility.

cause of disease, except the disruption of so long an union, and amalgamation, as it were, of minds.

The vital principle of two individuals may, from congeniality or habit, be so identified or combined, that it would be impossible to destroy the one without fatally injuring the other. It is somewhat like that sympathy by which if the right eye, in consequence of weakness or disease, become blind, the left seldom retains long afterwards its capacity of vision.

Several instances of disease have very recently occurred, which arose evidently from want of occupation. "Employment is every thing."* For disorders characterized by languor, the radical remedy is exertion. Leisure, in its physical operation, is not seldom almost equally injurious with licentiousness. Business attended with extreme care and uneasiness, is perhaps more desirable than the having no subject at all of uneasiness or care. An atmosphere, however contaminated, proves less certainly and immediately destructive than an absolute vacuum. In the laborious and luxurious extremes of society, the same effect may be observed to originate from causes apparently opposite.

The former, by a total deprivation of hope, the latter by possessing so much as to have nothing left to hope for, are too apt to take refuge in debauchery or excess. In either case a similar calamity eventually ensues. If indiscretion of this kind merely curtailed life, it might admit of some apology, or even of vindication; but a forced hilarity, or an artificially induced stupefaction, does not, like the guillotine, separate at once the slender thread of vitality. For the most part it produces this effect through the medium of a slow and agonizing disease. A laborious and protracted interval of dropsy, schirrous liver, palsy, or some other equally fearful disorder, in most instances occurs between the loss of a capacity for enjoying life, and the period of its ultimate and entire extinction.

Death is the last, but not the worst, result of intemperance

J. REID.

Grenville Street, Brunswick Square, Feb. 24, 1806.

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* Paley.

MEDICAL

MEDICAL AND PHYSICAL

INTELLIGENCE.

The Galvanic Society at Paris have attempted, but without success, to follow M. Pacchiani in the decomposition of the muriatic acid. After a series of accurate experiments, they declared it as their opinion, that the Professor was deceived as to the nature of the acid which it was announced that he obtained, and that it was probably produced by some animal or vegetable substance employed in the apparatus: they add also that they do not think it possible to effect any thing by the action of the Galvanic pile, but a decomposition of the water used in the experiment.

M. Pully, a French chemist, has lately employed himself in analysing Dr. James's powder; and as the result of many experiments, he says of nineteen parts of James's powder, there are of

	Parts.
Oxyd of antimony — — —	7
Phosphat of lime — — —	4
Sulphat of potash — — —	4½
Free potash, containing oxyd of antimony	3½
	19

To recompose this powder, he takes

Sulphat of antimony — — —	2
Calcined phosphat of lime — —	1½
Nitrat of potash — — —	4
	7½

These substances are to be pulverized, mixed, and triturated; they are then to be put into a crucible, which is to be closed, and strongly heated. During this operation, the oxygen of the nitric acid, acting upon the sulphur of the antimony, converts it into sulphuric acid, which unites with a portion of the potash, and forms sulphat of potash; the rest of the free potash retains antimony oxydated at the minimum. The white powder which remains in the crucible is the same as that known by the name of Dr. James's powder.

A Summary of Mr. Brande's experiments on guaiacum was read to the Royal Society, at one of its meetings in Jannary; from which it appears, that in 100 grains of that substance there were 22½ of water and oil; of empyrheumatic oil about 30; carbon 30; lime 9; carbonated hydrogen gas about 8. On the same and on a subsequent evening was read a letter from F. A. Knight, Esq. to the President, on the descent of the roots, and the elongation of the germs of plants: in this the author has endeavoured to determine whether the descent of the roots of plants was the effect of an inherent principle, or the consequences of mechanical gravitation; and

and he determines that gravitation is the fole caufe of the defcent of roots and afcent of germs; and that both diverge in all directions, when under the influence of equal preffure.

Mr. Hatchett has laid before the Royal Society a third communication on artificial tanning: he finds that all gums, refins, and balfams, afford this fubftance on being treated with nitric acid. They all yield at one operation a certain quantity of this matter; but if the procefs be continued too long the product is deftroyed.

The following refults have been given from experiments made on the torpedo by Meffrs. Humboldt and Lusac: 1. Though the ftrength of the torpedo is far inferior to that of the gymnotus, it is equally capable of caufing painful fenfations. 2. The gymnotus gives the moft violent fhocks, without any exterior movement of the eyes, the head, or the fins; but the torpedo fuffered a convulfive movement of the pectoral fins each time it gave a fhock. 3. The powers of thefe fifh cannot be excited at pleafure; they muft be irritated before they will give a fhock; of courfe the action depends on the will of the animal. 4. The fhock is equally felt on touching with one finger a fingle furface of the electric organs, as on applying the two hands to the two furfaces at once. 5. When an infulated perfon touches the torpedo with a fingle finger, the contact muft be immediate, as no fhock will be felt if a conducting body, of metal for example, be interpofed between the finger and the organ of the fifh; but if both hands are ufed, one touching the fifh, and the other the metal, a fevere fhock will be felt. 6. The moft fenfible electrometer manifefts no electrical tenfion in the organs of the torpedo, in whatever way it is applied. The leaft injury on the brain of the torpedo deftroys its electric powers.

Dr. Struve, a fkilful phyfician of Gorlitz, has invented a machine, the object of which is to apply galvanifm to the purpofe of diftinguifhing real from apparent death.

M. Klaproth, a fhort time before his death, difcovered that the folution of the metallic oxyds in alkalis are as eafily precipitated in their metallic ftate, by the other metals foluble in the fame alkalis as the acid folutions of thefe metals are by phofphorus. He had made a very ingenious application of this procefs to the analyfis of tin ores. In the operation, tungftein is feparated from tungftate of ammonia, by the addition of zinc, in the form of black flakes.

A Correspondent, in a letter, dated Colchester, Jan. 20, 1806, writes as follows: — "Having served in his Majesty's forces for many years as a Surgeon, and supposing I had laid a good foundation to qualify myself for a Physician, I went to Cambridge with a view of keeping Terms, and attending the Lectures which that University prescribes, but was informed that my practice in the army was an insuperable impediment, as a decree was made last year

year, 'That no one engaged in any trade or profession could proceed to the degree of Bachelor of Physic. This surprized me much, especially when I was told that no Medical Lectures were given by the Professor of Physic; nor was my surprize diminished, when I found that in the same month the Admiralty had made a regulation, 'that no one should act as a Physician in their department, who had not practised as a Surgeon at least five years.' Perhaps some of your correspondents may explain what to me seems paradoxical, that the practice which recommends a medical man to the world, should disqualify him as a Physician in the eyes of a University. It follows therefore, that only *Scotch* Physicians, or those who have taken no degree at all, can be employed in the navy."

Dr. Arnold, of Leicester, whose valuable Work *on Insanity* has long been out of print, and been sold at high prices, is preparing a new and enlarged Edition for immediate publication.

Dr. Adams has gone to preſs with a new edition of "Morbid Poiſons." Though the principles contained in this new edition are the ſame as in the laſt, the conſtruction of the work is different. The controverſial part is omitted, excepting as far as it may illuſtrate Mr. Hunter's opinions, which are reduced to practical rules. Yaws, Sivvens, and Elephantiasis, are deſcribed from the Author's clinical obſervations; and the anomalous poiſons which have been confounded with the venereal, are arranged according to diſtinct characters, their illuſtrations being greatly enriched by publications ſince the former edition, and by the Author's own obſervations.

Dr. Pinckard's Notes, containing an Account of the Expedition to the Weſt Indies, under the command of the late General Sir Ralph Abercromby and the late Admiral Sir Hugh C. Chriſtian, with Obſervations reſpecting the Diſeaſes of the Weſt Indies, and particularly regarding the "Seaſoning" or "Yellow" Fever of hot Climates, may be ſpeedily expected.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Mr. Trye's communication on the comparative Merits of Cow-pock and Small-pox Inoculation, arrived too late for insertion in this Number, but will certainly appear in our next. An Analysis of Mr. Fox's Work on the Diseases of the Teeth will also be given in our next Journal.

Communications are likewise received from Mr. Weaver, Mr. Marson, and Mr. Fogo.

ERRATA.

Page 147, l. 14, for *head*, read *heart*.

148, l. 2, for *a small*, read *a smart*.

215, l. 4, from the bottom (in those copies where not corrected) for *preservation*, read *prevention*.